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THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | FRIDAY 2 | FEBRUARY 2018

WEATHER



STROGUIDE

Hevilambi: Thai 20 **Tithi:** Thuvithiyai Star: Magam Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon Yamagandam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm

PRAYERS Fajar: 5.55 am Jumma: 1.00 pm **Asar:** 4.00 pm Maghrib: 6.14 pm

Isha: 8.00 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.10 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.35 AM MOONRISE TODAY 8.06 PM MOONSET TOMORROW 7.57 AM

Centre tries to inflate

Aadhaar saving figures: Counsel to SC

New Delhi: Even as senior counsel Shyam Divan maintained in the Supreme Court that the Centre has attempted to inflate the figures on savings due to ceding of Aadhaar for availing social security benefits, heated exchanges sparked up the debate on Thursday. A five judge Constitution bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.K. Sikri, A.M. Kanwilkar. D.Y.Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan is hearing argu-

Petrol bomb hurled at Suu Kyi's lakeside villa

ments in the Aadhaar case

for the seven day.

Yangon: A petrol bomb was thrown at the lakeside Yangon compound of Myanmar's lea-der Aung San Suu Kyi today while she was away from her home, a government spokesman said. "It was a petrol bomb," spokesman Zaw Htay confirmed, without giving details on a possible motive for a small. but rare attack targeting the Myanmar democracy heroine. The petrol bomb caused minor damage. But the attack on the villa where Suu i was held for long years of house arrest by the former junta is hugely symbolic. Suu Kvi has increasingly attracted the ire of the international community over her perceived failure to speak up on behalf of Mvanmar's

COUNTER

Rohingya Muslim community.



There is a heavy demand

for Governor posts! Market report

GOLD 22 ct (1 gm): ₹ 2,893.00 **SILVER** Bar (1 Kg): ₹39,670.00

Sensex 35,906.66 pts **INDICES EXCHANGE** US\$: ₹64.01 Euro: 79.79

WORLD

Trump lets protected Syrians stay longer

SPORT

Faf du Plessis ton in vain as India win



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EYE ON

FARMERS

NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

POOR, ANGRY

SANJAY BASAK | DC

With seven state elections

slated to be held this year,

and growing indications of

voters' disenchantment with

the BJP, especially in rural

India, Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi's last full-fledged

Budget is designed with eyes

firmly on the restless under-

privileged and angry farm-

Stepping up on the agenda

of "empowering the poor", fi-

nance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday unfurled, with

aplomb, one of the biggest ev-

er health care schemes that

will cover, he said, nearly 50

crore underprivileged peo-

RURAL INDIA IN POLL POSITION

FARM. EDUCATION. HEALTH IN FOCUS, LITTLE FOR MIDDLE CLASS

■ I-T RATES UNCHANGED; ₹40,000 | STANDARD DEDUCTION IS BACK

■ LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS ON STOCK TRADING INTRODUCED

New Delhi, Feb. 1: The government on Thursannounced the "world's largest" health insurance scheme for India's 50 crore poor in its last full budget before general elections, focusing heavily on uplifting agriculture and rural sectors while paying lit-tle attention to the mid-

dle class. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the budget in Lok Sabha to repeated thumping of desks by treasury members led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who later described it as a vehicle to build a "new India." The budget is "farmer friendly, common citizen friendly, business environment friendly" and will add to "ease of living and ease of doing business," Modi said in a

televised address. With chaotic implementation of the Goods and Services Tax and demonetisation causing distress in the economy, Jaitley announced massive spending on rural and urban infrastructure as also lower tax rates for small and medium enterprises. While continuing the 10-15 per cent surcharge on superrich, he raised the health and education cess, levied on all taxable income, to 4 per cent from 3 per cent at present. The opposition slammed the budget, with the Congress calling it "defeatist" and a "big letdown" while the Left parties dubbing it an election-mind-ed "big jumla (rhetoric)." "It is a cam-

DC CORRESPONDENT

To boost the developme-

nt of next-generation wi-

reless technology in the

country, finance minist-

er Arun Jaitley in his

budget speech has anno-

unced that the depart-

ment of telecommuni-

cations will support the 5G-test bed at IIT Ma-

The 5G technology is being standardised glob-

ally to enable the Inter-

net of Things (IoT) appli-

cations. The centre at

IIT-Madras can work on

the development of IoT

and Machine to Machine

applications.

CHENNAI, FEB.1

UNION BUDGET: 5G TEST BED TO

BE ESTABLISHED AT IIT MADRAS

COSTLIER (IMPORTED GOODS)

Cars, motorcycles, cellphones, gold, vegetable oils, etc. /

CHEAPER (IMPORTED GOODS)

Raw cashewnuts, solar tempered glass for manufacture of solar panels; raw materials, accessories for cochlear implants etc.

BUDGET A blend of fiscal prudence and economic needs. - **ARUN JAITLEY,** FM



paign for them. We con-

sider it as a 'big jumla'.

We think it is an election

campaign as talks are going on for early elec-

tions," CPI(M) Lok Sa-

"The proposal is to

build an end-to-end test

bed for 5G technology

located at multiple loca-

tions at some of these

institutes, interconnect-

ed by a high-speed fibre-

optic network," IIT Madras director Bhas-

The development of a

5G technology test-bed is

an initiative involving

IIT Madras, IIT Bombay,

IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi,

IIT Hyderabad, IISc Ban-

galore, CEWiT (Centre of

Excellence in Wireless

Technology at IIT Mad-

ras) and SAMEER in Ch-

ennai. IIT Madras is the

lead institution for exe-

cuting this project. ■ P13

kar Ramamurthi said.

FREE GAS CONNECTIONS FOR WOMEN UNDER UJJWALA YOJANA WILL RISE TO 8 CRORE.

BUDGET REDUCES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM WOMEN EMPLOYEES IN **EPF TO 8 PER CENT FROM** 12 PER CENT FOR THE **NEXT 3 YEARS.**

INCREASE IN LOANS GIVEN TO WOMEN SELF-HELP GROUPS.



- NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister CRYPTOCURRENCY LIKE

BITCOIN NOT A LEGAL TENDER

BUT CENTRE TO EXPLORE USE OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY PROACTIVELY TO USHER IN DIGI-TAL ECONOMY.

COMPANIES UNDER ₹250 CRORE TO BE TAXED 25%

PAN MANDATORY FOR ANY ENTITY ENTERING INTO A

>>> EXEMPTION OF INTEREST INCOME FOR ELDERLY ON

>> DEFENCE BUDGET HIKED MARGINALLY TO ₹2.95 LAKH

>> AIRPORT CAPACITY TO BE HIKED FOR 1 BN TRIPS A YEAR.

CRORE AGAINST LAST YEAR'S ₹2.74 LAKH CRORE.

>> SEAPLANE INVESTMENTS TO BE ENCOURAGED.

>> E-ASSESSMENT OF I-T; NO PERSON-TO-PERSON CONTACT

FINANCIAL TRANSACTION OF ₹2.5 LAKH OR MORE.

DEPOSITS WITH BANKS AND POST OFFICES.

■ DEPARTMENT OF TELECOM WILL SUPPORT INDIGENOUS 5G TEST BED AT IIT, CHENNAI.

get what.

passengers.

ailway

clarified which state will

Further there is no

announcement on new

trains and schemes that

helps 2.5 crore daily rail

which used to celebrate

railway budgets in the

past by organising confer-

ences, press meets remained quiet through-

out the day and a press

release compiled by the

Press Information Bureau

was re-released to remind

that the union budget also

had a few schemes for the

Indian Railways.

Meanwhile Southern

headquarters

The BJP hopes that its National Health Protection Scheme, which aims to offer health insurance of up to ₹5 lakh per year to 10 crore poor families, will draw them spoken about laying of new tracks but he has not

towards the party. With 30 per cent of India's population living below the poverty line, "the largest government-funded health insurance scheme to be implemented anywhere in the world" will go a long way in easing the heavy debt families incur because of their healthcare

Agri credit target for FY'19 up 10% to ₹11 lakh crore

New Delhi, Feb. 1: In a major bonanza to farmers, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday announced fixing support price of Kharif crops like paddy at least 50 per cent higher than the cost of production, while raising farm credit target for the next fiscal by 10 per cent to ₹11 lakh crore.

Presenting the Union Budget 2018-19, Jaitley reiterated the government's commitment to welfare of farmers saying that the emphasis is to generate higher income for farmers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call to double the farmers' income by 2022, he added. Jaitley said the government has decided to fix the minimum support price (MSP) of coming Kharif (summer sown) crops, which include maize, sovabean and pulses. at least one-and-half times the cost of production. ■ **P6**

TN, Southern Railway get peanuts extend phase II of the

C.S. KOTTESWARAN | DC CHENNAI, FEB. 1

bha leader Mohd Salim told reporters here. The Tamil Nadu and Southern centrepiece of the budget Railway got peanuts from the Union budget on Thursday. "Tamil Nadu is was the government's plan to provide univerone of the leading states in sal healthcare through a 'National Health Protecpaying GST and has the tion scheme'. It provides second largest GST dataa cover of up to ₹5 lakh base, but there is no state per family per year for secondary and tertiary Centric allocation. We pay a lot of tax to the Centre care hospitalisation to 10 but end without funds for crore poor and vulnerathe much-needed Chennai metro rail and the proble families, or about 50 posed AIIMS in TN, said a crore beneficiaries, nearly half of India's popuhighly placed official at lation of 125 crore.— PTI the secretariat.

The Centre has given impetus to boost the Mumbai and Bengaluru transport system

PG 4 | TAXING

SALARIED CLASS

TIMES FOR

PG 4 | WILL

ACCELERATE

GROWTH: CM

INSIDE

The Mumbai and Bengaluru transport system got ₹27,000 crore **but the Southern** Railway involving three states got nothing in the **Budget**

announcing funds up to ₹27.000 crore but at the same time there is no reference about the southern railway that benefits three southern states. Chennai metro rail has been plead-

ing with the Centre to

kisan credit card systems. The announcements related to the new coach factorv at ICF Perambur and the establishment of an indigenous 5G test bed at IIT, Chennai is just a regular expansion programme. the official rued. Terming the budget a

delayed project, the offi-

cial said. The only respite

is that the farmers in TN

will get the Central assis-

tance schemes and the

big failure for the common man and the railway passengers, former railway minister A.K. Moorthy said that there was no clarity in the budget.

Finance minister has

₹5 lakh health cover per year to 10 crore poor families

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI/CHENNAI,

Unveiling the world's largest government-funded healthcare programme, finance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday announced the setting up of National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) to offer coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per year to 10 crore poor and vulnerable families for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

Noting that only a "swasth Bharat" (healthy India) can be a "samriddha Bharat" (prosperous India), Mr Jaitley said India cannot realise its demographic dividend without its citizens being healthy. The NHSP, he said, will cover approximately 50 crore people.

"This will be the world's largest government-funded healthcare programme. Adequate funds will be provided for smooth implementation of this programme," the finance minister said.

Secondary medical care is provided by a specialist or facility upon referral by a primary care physician. Tertiary care is speconsultative cialised health care, usually for inpatients.

While not specific allocation has been made for the scheme, at the current commercial rate of premium. NHPS could cost the government up to ₹1.5 lakh crore

Cong sweeps Rajasthan bypolls, shock for BJP ndedly ran the campaign:

DC CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR, FEB. 1

Dealing a huge blow to its national president Amit Shah's wish of making the party invincible in Rajasthan, the BJP has lost by-polls two Lok sabha seats and an assembly constituency in Rajasthan. All three seats were previously held by

the ruling party.
The defeat coming just 10 months before assembly polls is also a personal setback for CM Vasundhara Raje for whom nothing seems to have worked. She single hamade many visits even before poll dates were announced, held closed door meetings with people on caste lines and went on spree to announce sops and lay foundation stones.

Yet, the ruling party not just failed to retain a single seat clearly suggesting a huge anti incumbency against her government while the Congress led by young state president Sachin Pilot has been able to use it to its advantage. What must be heartening for the Pilot is that the party known for strong rural base is now also gaining in urban areas as shown by the latest results.

In Mandalgarh, the BJP candidate Shakti Singh Hada lost by nearly 13,000 votes in three cornered contest where Congressman Gopal Malviva rebel took more than 40,000 votes.

On the prestigious Ajmer seat, BJP failed to cash in on sympathy wave as Ramswaroop Lamba lost by more than 84.000 votes just 6 months after his father Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat's death who had won this seat from Pilot by 1.71 lakh votes in 2014.

TMC wins 2 bypolls in West Bengal

Kolkata, Feb. 1: Trinamool Congress on Thursday made a clean sweep in the by-elections to Uluberia Lok Sabha and Noapara assembly seats, while BJP finished second increasing it vote share.

CPI(M)-led Left Front was pushed to the third position while Congress candidates suffered the ignominy of losing security deposits in both the seats, including Noapara which it won in 2016. TMC candidate Sajda Ahmed trounced Anupam Mallick of BJP by over 4.74 lakh votes in Uluberia Lok Sabha seat in Howrah district. She has secured 7.67.219 votes as against 2,93,018 votes bagged by the BJP candidate.

CJI makes allocation of work for judges, roster system from Feb. 5

J. VENKATESAN | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

In an apparent move to put an end to the controversy raised by four senior-most judges, the Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra on Thursday made public and transparent the new roster system from February 5 on allocation of work to the 12 different benches including the CJI, who will hear all-important



The new roster system has been notified in the Supreme Court website, describing the work allocated to each of the benches headed by the CJI and justices Chelameswar,

Ranjan Gogoi, Madan Lokur, Kurian Joseph, A K Sikri, S A Bobde, R K Agrawal, N V Ramana, Arun Mishra, A K Goel and Rohinton Nariman. This new roaster will apply to the fresh cases and not the existing cases. Till now though daily, weekly and advance lists of cases are published and put on the website, the liti-

gants are not aware before

which judge their cases

will be listed.

₹5,29,000cr

COLLECTED THROUGH INCOME TAX



2014-15 2015-16

As % of GDP

>> STEADY GROWTH I The personal income-tax collection has seen a steady growth. The tax collection has nearly doubled over the last seven years from 1.95% in 2011-12 to 3.8% in 2018-19 after income-tax department used information technology to reduce tax evasion.

The extension of corporate tax rate of 25% to companies

with the turnover up to 250 crore from just 50 crore till last year, will have a positive impact on the health of corporate India irrespective of any sector.

> - R. PURAVANKARA, MD, Puravankara Limited

The FM providing more tax benefits to senior

citizens experiencing rising inflationary costs is a step in the right direction. And the introduction of a LTCG Tax of 10% should be digested easily given the

- PREETHA REDDY, Vice-chairman, Apollo Hospitals

buoyancy.



- NIKUNJ GHODAWAT, CFO, CleanMax Solar

SALARIED PEOPLE LEFT HIGH & DRY

■ ₹40,000 standard deduction doesn't help save much

FALAKNAAZ SYED | FC

The Union budget 2018-19 was a disappointment for India's salaried/middle class as it failed to except some token announcements despite they contributing the most towards the government's personal income-tax kitty.

So, while the Budget did not change the personal income tax slabs, it announced a standard deduction of ₹40,000 for salaried employees.

It was a perfect exam-ple of giving from one hand and taking it away from the other as the existing benefit of transport allowance of ₹19,200 and medical reimbursement ₹15,000 under Section 17(2) were withdrawn as

per the Finance Bill. Thus, giving a net benefit of only ₹5,800 to the salaried class while for those in 30 per cent tax bracket would get a ben-

Tax experts said that while the standard deduction does reduces administrative hassles to a great extent, in reality it is not much.

efit of only ₹1,950.

STANDARD DEDUCTION SAVINGS

SALARIED TAXPAYERS, WHO ARE NOT SENIOR CITIZENS, CAN SAVE ON TAX DEPENDING ON THEIR TAX BRACKETS.

NO TAX: Till ₹2,90,000 (basic limit of ≥ 2.5 lakh $+ \ge 40,000$)

Till ₹5,40,000 (₹5 lakh + ₹40,000) Till ₹10,40,000

Income more than

In addition to income-tax, a 4 per cent cess would be levied. A surcharge of ₹10 per cent is payable by all those having an income of over ₹50 lakh.

(₹10 lakh + ₹40,000)

Another disappointment for the salaried class was an increase in existing three per cent education cess that would be replaced by a four per cent "Health and Education Cess" to be levied on the tax

"There is a general perception in the society that individual business income as compared to

salaried class. However, income tax data analysis suggests that major portion of personal incometax collection comes from the salaried class. For assessment year 1.89salaried individuals have filed their returns and have paid total tax of ₹1.44 lakh crore

which works out to aver-

age tax payment of

₹76,306 per individual

salaried taxpayer. As against this, 1.88 crore individual business taxpayers including professionals, who filed their returns for the same assessment year paid total tax of ₹48,000 crore which works out to an average tax payment of ₹25,753 per individual business per individual business taxpayer," said Mr Jaitley. According to him, the total number of salaried employees and pensioners who will benefit from the standard deduction increase

is around 2.5 crores. Akhil Chandna, director, Grant Thornton India said, "The FM enthused the salaried class by reintroducing standard deduction of up to ₹40,000, but soon gave it away by withdrawing current exempon transport allowance (₹19,200 per annum) and medical reimbursement (₹15,000 per annum), leaving only a marginal bene-

"Overall, together with the additional education cess of 1 per cent, there isn't too much for the salaried class in this

Big tax relief for seniors

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

Announcing a series of benefits for senior citizens, finance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday said the exemption limit on income from interest for them has been raised five times to ₹50,000 per year.

At the same time, the Union finance minister raised limit of deduction for health insurance premium and medical expenditure to ₹50,000 from ₹30,000 under section

"All senior citizens will now be able to claim benefit of deduction up to ₹50,000 per senior citiannum in respect of Jaitley said.

any health insurance premium and/or any general medical expenditure incurred," he said while presenting the Union Budget for 2018-19.

Besides, the Budget has increased the limit of deduction for medical expenditure in respect of certain critical illness to ₹1 lakh in respect of all senior citizens, under section 80DDB. The finance minister

proposed to the Pradhan also extend Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana up to March 2020. "The current investment limit will be increased to ₹15 lakh from the existing limit of ₹7.5 lakh per senior citizen," Mr

READING THE FINE PRINT

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

As always, there are hidden bombs within the fine print. Deductions for instance in respect of certain incomes will not be allowed unless return is filed by due date. The existing provisions contained in the section 80AC of the Act provide that no deduction would be

admissible under section 80 1A or section 80 1AB or section 80 1B or section 801C or section 80 1D or section 80 1E, unless the return of income is furnished on or before the due date specified under sub section (1) of section 139 of the Act. This burden is not cast upon assessees claiming deductions under several other similar provisions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- INVESTORS WILL HAVE to pay 10 per cent tax on distributed income from equity-oriented mutual funds, as per the Budget proposals.
- IT IS PROPOSED to extend the benefit of exemption for withdrawal up to 40% from National Pension System Trust to all subscribers and not only to employees.
- IT IS PROPOSED to provide that in a case where premium for health insurance for multiple years has been paid in one year, the deduction shall be allowed proportionately over the years for which the benefit of health insurance is available.
- IN ORDER TO encourage start-ups, the definition of 'eligible business' for a start-up is proposed to be aligned with the modified definition notified by DIPP. Also, to extend the incorporation date for a start-up for availing benefit under section 80-IAC of the Act to 31st March, 2021 from 31st March, 2019 and rationalise the condition of turnover for availing the benefit.
- IT IS PROPOSED to provide that every entity, not being an individual, which enters into any financial transaction of an amount aggregating to ₹2.50 Lakh or more in a financial year shall be required to apply for a PAN. It is also proposed that directors, partners, principal officers, office bearer or any person competent to act on behalf of such entities shall also apply for PAN.
- IT IS PROPOSED to provide that compensation received in connection with termination or modification of business contract and employment contract shall be taxable.

LTCG tax on stocks stages a comeback

FC BUREAU

While the government has doled out sops for some sector, it came down hard on a few others. For equity nvestors there were negative surprises as the govre-introduced long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax after a gap of 14 years. The budget proposed to levy 10 per cent LTCG on profits of more than ₹1 lakh on shares and other equity-oriented investments like units of mutual Till now, such gains were

entirely exempt from taxes, while a flat 15 per cent rate was applicable on short-term capital gains profits made on investments held for less than a

While this move will enable the government to collect tax on sale of securities of listed entity, there are two important aspects on sale of securities which the government failed to consider including non-levy of the securities transaction tax (which was introduced in the finance Budget of 2004 in lieu of the tax on long term capi-

tal gain), and making available the indexation benefit on securities held for more than one year.

Ekambaram, Shanti President Consumer Banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd said. "the much discussed and awaited Long Term Capital Gains tax was also announced. In what is a fair move, the 10% LTCG tax is applicable on an incremental basis and all holdings as on Jan. 31, 2018 would be grandfathered and valued at prices on that day. However, Securities Transaction Tax was not reduced. The introduction of divi-

dend distribution tax on equity mutual funds was a surprise. There was disappoint-

ment for corporate sector. While the budget also has addressed the woes of MSME segment by extending the concessional tax of 25 per cent to MSMEs up to ₹250 cr turnover, the large corporates will not get that

Corporate sector was expecting that the government would reduce the corporate tax rate, in line with what was announced three

A SLEW OF IMPORTED ITEMS **INCLUDING CARS AND MOBILE PHONES WILL COST MORE**



- BMW, Audi, Volvo, Jaguar Land Rover, Harley-Davidson, Triumph, who have set up assembly plants
- Mobile phones Silver Gold
- Vegetable, fruit juices, including orange and cranberry ■ Sunglasses ■ Miscellaneous food preparations other than soya protein ■ Perfumes and toilet waters
- Sunscreen, suntan, manicure, pedicure preparations Preparations for oral dental hygiene, denture fixative
- pastes and powders; dental floss Pre-shave, shaving or after-shave preparations, deodorants, bath preparations, depilatories, perfumery
- Scent sprays and similar toilet sprays
- Truck and Bus radial tyres Silk Fabric Footwear
 Coloured gemstones Diamonds Imitation jewellery
 Smart watches/wearable devices

- LCD/ LED TV panels Furniture Mattresses Lamps
- Articles and equipment for sports or outdoor games, swimming pools and paddling pools

COSTLIER

Wrist watches, pocket watches, clocks **■** Tricycles, scooters, pedal cars, wheeled toys, dolls carriages, dolls, toys, puzzles of all kinds Video game consoles Cigarette and other lighters, candles

Kites ■ Edible/vegetable oils such as

CHEAPER

olive oil, groundnut oil

- Raw cashew nuts
- Solar tempered glass or solar tempered glass used for manufacture solar panels/modules
- Raw materials, parts or accessories used in making cochlear implants
- Select capital goods and electronics such as ball screws and linear motion guides.

LTCG Tax may hit investments

Mumbai, Feb. 1: The move to impose tax on long-term capital gains as well as dividend distribution could pose as a small hurdle for investment the mutual funds, industry experts

According to the Budget tabled on Thursday in the Parliament, investors will have to pay 10 per cent tax on distributed income equity-oriented mutual funds.

The Budget also proposed to introduce 10 per cent tax on long-term capital gains (LTCG) from stock markets, exceeding ₹1 lakh. Noting that 10 per cent tax on the LTCG "poses a

small hurdle in raising assets for the mutual fund equity schemes Mahindra Management Company CEO and managing director Ashutosh Bishnoi, said "it also has the effect of bringing in a sense of long-termness in the investments made in such schemes" "However, the govern-

ment should look into the possibility that people may use ULIP of life insurance to avoid this tax,

Morningstar Investment Adviser India's Kaustubh Belapurkar said that introduction of a 10 per cent dividend distribution tax impact flows into where investors were primarily entering with the expectations of regular dividends"

"In fact dividend schemes are now slightly disadvantaged as opposed to growth schemes as LTCG below ₹1 lakh is exempt from tax, Belapurkar said.

While he was wary of the capital gains introduction, Motilal Oswal AMC's chief Aashish executive Somaiyaa said he is "pleasantly surprised with the nuanced and well-considered implementation".

"Protecting all past gains up until January 31 was the right way to implement ine same," added. Somaiyaa

On an optimistic note, Somaiyaa said that dividend distribution tax on equity-oriented funds will help stop misselling of balanced funds that declare a monthly div-

BUDGET IS A BIT TAXING FOR CORPORATES



PRAVEEN WILLIAM Partner, Indirect Tax, KPMG

rue to the expectations, the budget turned out to 上 be a bonanza for rural India. The government has earmarked several schemes which will give an impetus to agriculture, health and education sectors. The overarching theme of the budget was that of social welfare, or as the Prime Minister has put it more eloquently - 'ease of living'. While the corporate sector, would welcome 'ease of living', the 'ease of doing business' still remains its primary demand.
This budget provided a sub-

stantial cut in corporate tax rate from 30% to 25% for domestic companies having turnover below Rs 250 crore in FY 2016-17. Considering that countries around the world are in a competitive mindset to attract investment by reducing

corporate tax rates, this move would benefit MSMEs which are competing globally.

The government has introduced tax on long term capital gains on listed equity shares and equity oriented mutual funds for the first time - which is likely to have ramifications for all tax payers. While the move is no doubt intended to widen the tax base and divert financial resources to other priority sectors - the effects of this move on India's robust markets remain to be seen. From an indirect tax perspec-

tive, given that the GST Council is still in the mode of deliberating certain changes to the GST law and procedures - this budget has not flagged off broad measures concerning the GST. However, several changes have occurred relating to customs

The past year saw India climbing several notches in the 'ease of doing business' rankings. In this context, corporates were optimistic that the government may take bolder measures to consolidate the strengthening trends.

However, it appears that the emphasis of economic gears seems to be tilted towards social changes. Perhaps after the 'aam aadmi' is taken care of, India Inc. will also have its

law and administration. The most significant of these is the introduction of the Social Welfare Surcharge - which will subsume the existing education cess and will be charged at

10% on basic customs duty. The surcharge will make imported goods a little dearer for the general populace and importers

The government has also chosen to levy higher rates of basis customs duty on certain specified goods including electronic goods - notably mobile phones, televisions, automobile parts, etc. which are chargeable now at 15% or 20%. Parts of electronic goods will also be chargeable at enhanced rates. While the increase in rates may seem extortionate on the face of it, the rationale appears to be to incentivise domestic manufacturing - particularly in the electronics segment where India has strong domestic demand. Regrettably, the government has also not addressed the issue of in-bond sales - as the

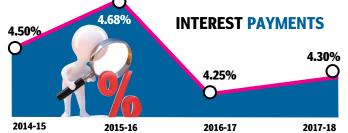
value prescribed for the purposes of calculation of IGST has been pegged on import or sale value, whichever is higher. It is expected that the GST law is amended to grant exemption on such sales.

The past year saw India climbing several notches in the 'ease of doing business' rankings. In this context, corporates were optimistic that the government may take bolder measures to consolidate the strengthening trends. However, it appears that the emphasis of economic gears seems to be tilted towards social changes. Perhaps after the 'aam aadmi' is taken care of, India Inc. will also have its day. The budget changes, which are in the right direction, must however be well implemented and further



The government has also chosen to levy higher rates of basis customs duty on certain specified goods including electronic goods notably mobile phones, televisions, automobile parts, etc. which are chargeable now at 15% or 20%.

UNION



>> **OUTGO** I Interest payment is the biggest expenditure for most governments in the world. The Central government's interest outgo was **4.5% of GDP in 2014-15.** It has increased to 4.68% in 2015-16 and decreased in the subsequent years.

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vear's

budget too

will help in bringing a positive change in the lives of farmers and poor and thereby accelerate the growth of villages

> - RAMAN SINGH, Chhattisgarh chief minister

and the country



farmers and the middle class. The #NewIndiaBudget will truly empower all sections of the society to attain prosperity

> - AMIT SHAH, BJP president

This budget envisions a paradigm shift in economic

priorities and it will help in bridging the gap between the rural and urban areas of our country

> - RAJNATH SINGH, Home minister



The poor, farmers, labourers are disappointed. This is destructive budget, which ignores problems of the

- AKHILESH YADAV, Samajwadi Party chief

SALARY HIKES BRING CHEER

EMOLUMENTS OF PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESI-DENT AND STATE GOVERNORS TO INCREASE

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

Finance minister Arun Jaitley announced a salary hike for the President and the Vice President in the Union Budget and both dignitaries will now get ₹5 lakh and ₹4 lakh per month respectively.

The moment Mr Jaitley announced the hike, several lawmakers present in Lok Sabha started getting noisy, sensing their mood and with a knowing smile on his face, the finance minister proposed a law for an automatic revision of salaries for Parliamentarians every five years indexed to inflation.

Meanwhile, announcing the hike in salaries of President and Vice President, Mr Jaitley said in his Budget speech that the emoluments of the President, the Vice President and the Governors were last revised with effect from January 1,

"These emoluments are proposed to be revised to ₹5 lakh for the President, ₹4 lakh for the Vice President

for the governors," he said, amidst thumping of desks by the members in the Lok Sabha. As of now, the President gets ₹1.50 lakh per month, the Vice President ₹1.25 lakh and a governor of a state ₹1.10 lakh.

Till now, the President, the Vice President and the governors continued to get less salaries as compared to the top bureaucrats and service chiefs since the laws were not amended to rectify an anomaly with the implementation of the 7th Pav Commission's recommendations two years ago.

After the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission's awards on January 1, 2016, the Cabinet Secretary, who is the top-most bureaucrat in the country, gets ₹2.5 lakh per month and a secretary in the Union government draws ₹2.25 lakh per month. The President is also the supreme commander of all

Army, Air Force, and Navy. However, the President's current salary was less than the chiefs of the three armed

and to ₹3.5 lakh per month forces, who draw a salary equivalent to the cabinet secretary. On the emoluments for MPs, the finance minister said there had been a public debate on emoluments paid to members of Parliament, and the present practice allowing them to fix their own emoluments had invited criticism.

"I am, therefore, proposing necessary changes to refix the salary, constituency allowance, office expenses and meeting allowance payable to Members of Parliament with effect from April 1, 2018," he said.

The remuneration of an MP includes a basic salary of ₹50,000 per month and ₹45,000 as constituency allowance, apart from other perks. The government spends roughly Rs 2.7 lakh on every MP per month.

Mr Jaitley added the law would also provide for automatic revision of emoluments every five years indexed to inflation and the three armed forces — the members would welcome this initiative and "not suffer such criticism in the



Vice-president Venkaiah Naidu along with CPI MP D. Raja and TMC MP Derek O'Brien at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday.

Modi: Budget will uplift Dalits, farmers, tribals

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB 1

Terming the Union budget 2018-19 as "developmentfriendly," Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the document will strengthen the vision of a 'New India.' Congratulating finance minister Arun Jaitley and his team, Mr Modi said farmers, Dalits and tribal communities will gain from the budget. The Prime Minister said the budget will create new opportunities for rural

This is Modi government's last full budget before the general elections. Modi, who later addressed the BJP parliamentary party, asked the MPs to make sure that the benefits for women, senior citizens among others and the provisions for the various sectors, including the farmers and the MSME, mentioned in the budget should be highlighted in their respective constituencies. The Prime Minister said that benefits mentioned in the budget must reach to the people and the sector they are aimed for.

Echoing the Prime Minister's views, BJP president Amit Shah said the Union Budget gives new wings to aspirations of the

poor as he cited measures aimed at giving a boost to farmers, infrastructure, rural sector and small and

medium enterprises. Mr Modi, who posted a video message and also tweeted on the budget, discussed various schemes of his government and said the budget with strengthen the hope and aspitrations of people. The Prime Minister emphasised that the budget has given attention to all sectors - ranging from agriculture to infrastructure and is "farmer friendly, common citizen friendly, business environment friendly, agriculture friendly" and will add to 'ease of living and ease of doing business." The government will announce concrete steps to address non-performing assets (NPA) and 'stress account' issues for the micro, small and medium

cial assistance provided to them Mr Modi also highlighted the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana,' which he said is a "path breaking initiative" to provide quality and affordable healthcare.

enterprises (MSME) sector, Mr Modi said. In his video

message, Mr Modi also

gave details of the various

initiatives taken for the

women and the farming

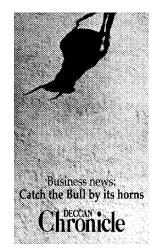
community and the finan-

Sangh body, TDP feel disappointed by Budget DC CORRESPONDENT

All are not happy within the Sangh Parivar and the ruling NDA over the Union budget 2018-19. Parivar affiliate, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), termed the document "dissapointing" and announced to hold a nationwide demonstration on Friday. Similarly, key NDA ally, TDP, which is Andhra Pradesh's ruling party, said it was "disappointed" with the budget as "pressing state including Polavaram project funding and funding for capital Amaravati, were not addressed in the budget.

Speculation has been rife that TDP-BJP ties have strained and the former is thinking of splitting from the alliance. TDP chief and Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu will hold a meeting on Sunday with state leaders over the issue. BMS general secretary Virjesh Upadhyay claimed that the government did not consult the workers' unions and the budget is not labour friendly.

However, another Parivar affiliate, Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) welcomed the budget for its "focus on the rural economy, employment and the welfare of poor." SJM's co-convenor Ashwini Mahajan said.





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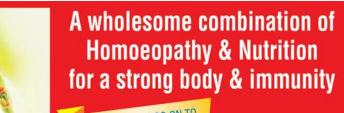
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Tamil Nadu

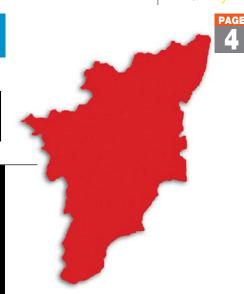
Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman has welcomed the announcement by Union finance minister Arun Jaitley on developing two defence industrial production corridors and to bring out an industry-friendly military production policy to promote defence industry, as "path breaking."

These are the first ever defence production corridors being formed in the country and will give a big boost to the defence production

> - NIRMALA, Defence Minister



NIRMALA SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION HAD RECENTLY CONDUCTED A MAJOR **DEFENCE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT MEET IN CHENNAL** IN JANUARY THIS YEAR WITH HUGE PARTICIPATION FROM DEFENCE INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING MSMES FROM CHENNAI, MYSORE, COIMBATORE, SALEM, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI AND FROM OTHER PLACES AS WELL



My heartiest congratulations to this government for investing in creating a swasth bharat by launching the Ayushman Bharat programme. Such ambitious out of the box thinking was a burning need of the hour and the government has not disappointed. The initiative to cover 10 crore families with 5 lakh per family/per year with insurance cover for secondary and tertiary healthcare will be a game changer

DR PRATHAP C. REDDY, CHAIRMAN, APOLLÓ **HÓSPITALS**

Through a farmer friendly and development oriented Union

Budget, the Finance Minister has adhered to fiscal discipline and yet managed to focus on key structural reforms in the agri sector, apart from giving a necessary boost to the MSME segment. The government's continued impetus for youth skill development augurs

A. VELLAYAN, EXECUTIVÉ CHAIRMAN, MURUGAPPA GROUP

well for the MSME

sector.

The thrust healthcare in this vear's union budaet was indeed a long awaited one. The National Health Protection Scheme proposed by the government will help in bridging the accessibility gap significantly. It will reduce the healthcare cost burden and help all strata's of society to avail cashless facilities. Also, the move to set up new Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals will bridge the lack of trained clinical specialist especially in

the rural areas R. SABESAN CFO, DR AGARWALS **GROUP OF EYE HOSPITALS**

national Healthcare policy covering 50 crore

citizens is nothing short of path breaking. If implemented correctly, it can transform India's health map. The FM providing more tax benefits to senior citizens experiencing rising inflationary costs

PREETHA REDDY, VICE CHAIRPERSON, APOLLO HOSPITALS

is a step in the right

direction

Taxing times for salaried class

■ Tax on capital gains, a shocker ■ Stock markets expected to dampen

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

The middle class, particularly techies, government employees and the monthly salaried class investing in systematic investment plans and mutual funds expressed shock over the reintroduction of tax on capital gains.

Stockbrokers and equity investors in Chennai said the share market would now undergo corrections, as the investors will think twice before investing.

The announcement of the long-term capital gain on equity investments saw the Sensex plunge 1 per cent within minutes. However, the markets seem to have recovered immediately signaling that equity investors including mutual fund investors would absorb these blows and keep investing as per their financial objectives. After all, equity remains one of the best-performing asset classes, said Adhil Shetty, CEO and Co-founder Bank

'The introduction of tax on long term capital gain may be a dampener for stock markets. Overall, we hope that this budget will aid in consolidating the reforms and steering the economy in the right direction," said M.S. Sreedhar, MD and CEO, Royal Sundaram General Insurance Company Limited. The proposed National Health Protection Scheme is a The gains from equity

share held up to one year will remain short-term capital gain and will continue to be taxed at the rate of 15%. This announcement affected the intra trade on Thursday

-P. LOGESH, Chennai-based stock analyst

timely move to not only make health insurance accessible but also offer wider coverage to manage critical illness. These initiatives would usher in a new era for the under penetrated general insurance industry, he added.

"The gains from equity share held up to one year will remain short-term capital gain and will continue to be taxed at the rate of 15 per cent and this announcement affected the intra trade on Thursday," said stock analyst P Logesh, based in Chennai.

the budget working Usually encourages women and enhances the income tax slabs but this year there is no such tax benefits for working women, said C.L. Usha, a working government school teacher

#Hindibudget trends on Twitter

DC CORRESPONDENT

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley's bilingual speech in English and Hindi for the first time came in for sharp criticism from those in Southern India with many viewing the move as "blatant form of imposition of Hindi."

This is for the first time in the history of independent India that the finance minister presented the Budget in both English and Hindi. Though majority of the budget speech was made in English, there was stiff opposition even to some portions being read in Hindi.

Even before the Budget was presented by Jaitley in the Lok Sabha, the hash tag #Hindibudget began trending on micro-blogging site Twitter as reports suggested that the finance minister will make his speech in Hindi. As Jaitley began his speech in English, Twitter was abuzz with tweets that praised him for sticking with the tradition.

But, Jaitley got panned by Twitter users as he switched over to Hindi every now and then with many complaining that they did not get a word of the "Hindi bit" of the speech. Sources in Lok Sabha said this is the first time that Hindi found its way in the Twitter page.

FM SLAMMED

Budget speech, though some finance ministers had used some phrases or snort poems in Hindi to drive home their point.

#Hindibudget was the hash tag that was used prominently by people from the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala to criticise the BJP Government for the "flawed decision."

R a m a c h a n d r a Maharudrappa, whose profile says he is a proud Kannadiga, wrote on his page that Jaitley has set another bad precedent.
"This Hindi budget is fur-

ther going to damage the federal structure of the union. The message from the centre is loud and clear. Learn Hindi or else you have no stake in India #HindiBudget," Maharudrappa wrote on Twitter. Some also saw the Budget speech in Hindi as way of infringing upon state autono-

"Government wants non Hindi states income but don't want our languages, how long these people want to treat Hindi as superior over others, day by day federal unity getting weaker country #HindiBudget," Rakshith J. Gowda wrote on his

OF THINGS Department of

telecommunications will support the 5G-test bed at IIT Madras.

5G network can increase the data rate of 4G about 1000 times and the battery life will be 10 times more.

MARKETS SEEM TO HAVE RECOVERED IMMEDIATELY SIGNALING THAT EQUITY INVESTORS INCLUDING MUTU-AL FUND INVESTORS WOULD ABSORB THESE BLOWS

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DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS WILL SUPPORT THE **5G-TEST BED AT IIT** MADRAS.

Announcement of the long-term capital gain on equity investments saw the Sensex plunge 1 per cent within minutes

> **SHOCK OVER THE** REINTRODUCTION **OF TAX ON CAPITAL** GAINS.

'Reflects Centre's commitment to enhance tourism economy'

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

The announcement in the budget for 2018 proposing to convert 10 identified and prominent tourist destinations into iconic and model destinations by adopting a holistic approach of development with the support of the private sector, has been hailed by the tourism industry.

"The budget with a holistic development outlay showcases the govern-ment's strong commitment to build India as a robust tourism economy," says Simon Figuet, General Manager, Southeast Asia and India, Expedia. The emphasis on developing tourism sites into iconic sites and enhancing tourist amenities at 110 Adarsh monument sites will not only contribute to more international footfalls but also hugely augment the

The proposal to convert 10 identified and prominent tourist destinations into iconic and model destina-

> tions by adopting a holistic approach of development has been hailed by the tourism industry

domestic tourism revenue of the country, in the years

The expansion of Swachh Bharat Mission and launch of Operation Green will also build a clean and green India for attracting more tourists and delivering an international experience. "The government has presented a budget that charts

an all-inclusive development plan for sectors pegged to be future growth drivers for the country. The budget continued its strong focus on strengthening, expanding and upgrading the tourism infrastructure in India," he said.

In aviation - rounded development has been targeted - from increased regional connectivity and access through regional airports and expansion of UDAAN scheme to Airports Authority of India bolstering a 5 times capacity expansion, to accommodate 1Billion trips a year. Railways and roadways have seen a major outlay for expansion and upgradation, be it wi-fi for entertainment or setting up cctv cameras for better surveillance, ease of travel through modernisation of toll, use of disaster resilient infrastructure and safety first policy for secu-

The government's focus is clearly towards affordable housing. Budget 2018 is remarkable as it proposes to establish a dedicated affordable housing priority sector fund under National Housing Bank. The proposal is in line with the Central government's aim of Housing for All' by 2022. The Government's focus on affordable housing will no doubt realize the home

buying dreams of India's huge middle class population. **ARUN MN,** FOUNDER & MD, CASAGRAND

The Union budget has set a positive tone overall and affirms the government's continued commitment to push reforms and investments. The government seeks to bring greater focus on the rural and agricultural segments through

proposed some far

growth **MS SREEDHAR**, MD AND CEO, ROYAL SUNDARAM, GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY

positive initiatives and has

reaching reforms with a

view to boost economic

Reduction of corporate income tax for companies with revenue up to ₹250Cr is a big announcement and will benefit more than 99% of the companies in India. The framework is still to be analyzed to qualify the benefits. Another announcement on standard deduction of ₹40,000 for salaried class is a great step to simplify the taxation

> ADHIL SHETTY, CEO, CO-FOUNDER BANKBAZAAR

This Budget demonstrates government's intent to boost investments in rural development, education, healthcare and social sectors. The strong push for infrastructure will also support this growth agenda. The focus on supporting local manufacturing, skill development

under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra and a heightened emphasis on job creation will lead to greater opportunities for the youth of the country. **SUDARSHAN VENU,** JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR. TVS MOTOR COMPANY

Genesis Foundation welcomes the move to allocate ₹1200 crores to The National Health Policy that focusses on developing a comprehensive health care eco-system for all. The announced 1.5 lakh health centres have the potential to impact the health and wellness index of this country. In addition the government's initiative of providing health care cover of ₹5 lakh every year to 10 crore poor families is a step in the right direction PREMA SAGAR, FOUNDER TRUSTEE, GENESIS

FOUNDATION

We feel that Budget 2018 is focused on boosting rural growth and to strengthen the economy. The government's initiative to formulate a comprehensive Gold Policy to develop gold as an asset class is a welcome move. We are also pleased with the government's step to establish a system of onsumer friendly and trade efficient system of regulated gold exchanges in the country.

JITHENDRA VUMMIDI. MANAGING DIRECTOR, VUMMIDI BANGARU **JEWELLERS**

Will accelerate growth, says Palaniswami Disappointing, says Oppn DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, FEB. 1

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has commended the Union Budget saying Jaitley's first budget post-GST is fairly balanced, growth-oriented that focuses on development of agriculture, rural development and health

Pointing out that it is the last full budget for the current government at the Centre, Mr Palaniswami said, "We welcome the decision to give a big push to agricultural and allied sector. Enhancement of the minimum support price for all crops to cover at least 1.5 times that of the production cost will benefit the

farmers in a big way." However implementing this is a big challenge. The constitution of the Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund and DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

Various opposition party leaders claimed the Budget has not been wholesome in addressing various concerns of the people.

Thirunavukkarasar, known BJP critic, claimed that the budget has been prepared with the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in mind. He said several crucial issues concerning the people have not been addressed in the hudget speech.

ructure Development Fund with a total corpus of ₹10,000 crore will provide a significant impetus to the agriculture and allied sec-

"I hope that these funds will be operationalised Animal Husbandry Infrast- immediately, along with the

MDMK general secretary Vaiko said that Mr Jaitley's assertion that the income of farmers would double appeared to be far from reality. "I think Jaitely should be in a different world to claim that the earnings of farmers would

double by 2022," he said. Expressing disappointment over the lack any announcements for the development of Dalits, VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan said the

Budget did not meet the aspirations of the people. Micro Irrigation Fund and

Dairy development Fund, which were announced in last budget," the CM said and appreciated the launching of 'Operation Green' with initial allocation of ₹500 crore and Bamboo Development Fund with

Terming the 2018-19 Union Budget "largely disappointing one" PMK founder Dr S. Ramadoss said the announcements pertaining to agriculture would benefit the people only if they were implemented properly. "As this was the last full Budget of the Modi government, there were high expectations among the people, but it did not happen," he said. He said there was no major announcements for the agriculture and rural

allocation of ₹1,290 crore. While welcoming the proposed liberalisation of exports of agricultural commodities, he expressed the hope that Tamil Nadu will benefit from the Mega Food Parks scheme that the Union Finance Minister

development.

alluded to in his speech. "Doubling the allocation to the agro processing indus-try will bring more stability and enhance farmers' income," he said and added overall there are many initiatives in the agricultural sector, which will benefit the farming community

He however noted that the Budget has left out Chennai, which is expanding faster and needs strengthening of its suburban train system.

The expectations of the MSME are far greater and they need to be supported more. On the standard deduction of ₹40,000 for salaried, he expressed "we feel that this falls short of the expectations of the pub-

Noting that the budget should give a boost to increase investment, generate more jobs, he exuded hope that this budget will bring fiscal stability to the country and accelerate economic growth.

Post-GST, Union budget has less and less to indulge with states

M. R. VENKATESH | DC CHENNAI, FEB.1

The first Union budget after the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) since July last year, presented to Parliament on Thursday by Finance Minister Mr Arun Jaitley is a fairly good indicator of how the Centre mediating with States through this fiscal instrument is under-

going a sea change. This implies the traditional roof-top cries from State capitals to include at least one big-ticket project or scheme for their respec-tive States, has less of

semantic value with the fights, disputes and possible reconciliations over most taxes (which comprise a major chunk of all indirect taxes now subsumed under GST) having shifted to the new Centre-States interactive mechanism, the 'GST Council'.

And since the Railway Budget has also been merged with Union Budget, even state-specific railway projects are not part of the calligraphy of the Finance Minister's budget speech, barring a few major announcements. The States themselves will have to pour over the fine

print of all the budget documents to get an idea about whether allocations for ongoing rail projects and the like have gone up or stagnating. This does not mean that

the States are totally ignored. Rather the mode of the Centre engaging with States has been undergoing a major overhaul since Mr. Jaitley presented the first BJP-led NDA government's budget for 2014-15. Only that post-GST, this discourse has seen a sharper, qualitative change.

Though the number of Centrally-sponsored new programme initia-

schemes have been radically pruned even since the UPA-II government's days, now all Central govern-ment flagship schemes, whether it is the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' or the 'Smart City' programmes, a new mode of programme implementation has been set in motion that gives the district collectors and local governments more importance than the respective States or its

Further, with the dismantling of the Planning Commission and its substitution with 'Niti Aayog',

Chief Ministers.

tives under the latter's leadership have made States at best "team players in Team India led by the Prime Minister". So, the cribbing in State capitals that the budget is not making even token or nominal references to them, though justified, faces new strong headwinds of change. Thanks to Mr. Jaitley's

announcement that in 2018-19, the existing three per cent education cess on personal income tax (I-T) is being replaced with a four per cent 'Health and Education Cess' on personal I-T, to substantially fund explicitly indulge the

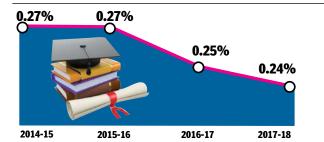
the new major rural education and health programmes including those of BPL families, the redistributive logic of wealth creation is slowly changing in the country.

Contrary to the earlier wisdom that States and their Chief Ministers are much closer to their respective people, now the States and their people are to be "partners" in funding core governmental programmes across the country, as the number of I-T and GST filers surge ahead. Hence, there seems less need for the Centre to

States through the annual budget speech. Mr. Jaitley himself men-

tioned today how the Centre looks forward to 'working with the States to provide more resources for improving the quality of education in the country." Even in fighting 'usurious' interest rates menace, which farmers and rural poor are worst hit by in States, he says that 'Niti Aayog', in consultation with State governments will evolve a suitable mechanism "to enable access of lessee cultivators to credit without compromising the rights of land

Luckily though, Tamil Nadu did find a couple of mentions in this year's Central budget. Mr. Jaitley announced an outlay of Rs.7, 148 crore for the textile sector in 2018-19, which should bring some cheer to the hosiery and garment hub of Tirupur, the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Perambur, Chennai, a legacy of the Kamaraj era, to soon turn out state-of-the-art 'Train sets', and IIT-Madras to be made the 'test bed' for developing indigenous '5G' wireless technologies.



>> NATIONAL EDUCATION MISSION I Public spend on National Education Mission, which includes Sakshar Bharat, SSA, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiskha Abhiyan, Teachers Training, has been declining since 2014-15. However, the Centre has a big push in this Budget.

₹32,613cr

TOWARDS THE NATIONAL EDUCATION MISSION



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RAJYAVARDHAN

RATHORE Sports minister From Blackboards to Digital

Boards: The immense power of digital technology must be tapped to modernize classroom education. Our govt intends to expand the role of digital in education. It will lay the foundation of India's next educational revo-

NANDAN NILEKANI

Infosys Non-executive chairman This budget has recognised the major weaknesses and shortcomings in our approach to education and made unprece-

dented commitments.

ANSHUL SAXENA

@AskAnshul ₹1 Lakh Crore for Education Sector in 4 years. To move from Blackboard to Digital Board & To set up Ekalavya Schools for Scheduled Tribes. Hope Govt will also look the Quality of Education & Infrastructure in Govt Schools.

ANAND SHARMA

Congress leader The budget a bad product with great advertising. It is full of platitudes, grand announcements... The key issues of agrarian distress, job creation & education have not been addressed seriously or sincerely.

ASHOK GEHLOT

Congress leader
The Modi Govt hs failed to resolve the 3 major issues of Employment, Education & Agriculture... No employment generation despite it being the biggest issue n need.

24 new medical colleges proposed

Outlay of ₹85,010cr for education ■ Fellowship to 1,000 BTech students

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday announced the Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (Rise) with a total investment of ₹1,00,000 crore in next four years to step up invest-

ments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions. He also announced fellowships for 1,000 top B.Tech students for pursuing a doctorate.

He made an outlay of ₹85,010 crore for the eďucation Budget for the next fiscal. While ₹35,010 crore have been allocated for education, amount of ₹50,000 crore has been earmarked for school education.

We have managed to get children to school, but quality of education is still a concern. Education will be treated holistically without segmentation from Nursery to Class 12," Mr Jaitley said in his Budget speech.

The finance minister announced that the government will launch "Revit-

NEW CHAPTER

EKALAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ON PAR WITH NAVODAYA VIDYALAYAS FOR TRIBAL CHILDREN TO BE SET UP

TO IMPROVE the quality of teachers an integrated B.Ed. programme for teachers will be initiated.

A MAJOR initiative named 'Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education' by 2022 to step up investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions to be set up.

best B.Tech students will be identified each year from premier institutions and provide them facili-ties to do Ph.D in IITs and IISc, with a handsome fellowship.

years was announced

1,00,000

to be spent

on RISE in

next four

crore

20 LAKH CHILDREN SURVEYED TO ASSESS THE STATUS ON THE GROUND, WHICH WILL HELP IN DEVISING A DISTRICT-WISE STRATE-GY FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

FIGURE THIS

alising Infrastructure and Systems in Education" by 2022. "By 2022, every block with more than 50 per cent ST population and at least 20,000 tribal people will

have 'Ekalavya' school at par with Navodaya . Vidayalas," Mr Jaitley said. Mr Jaitley proposed setfledged schools of planning

and architecture and also 18 schools of planning and architecture to be set up under the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and

Technology autonomous schools.

^A "Prime Minister

Fellowship Scheme" was also announced for top 1,000 B.Tech students in the country to provide opportunity to the students to pursue a Ph.D. in IITs and Indian Institute of Science (IISc). "The students will also be rewarded with a

and the determinant of the state of the stat ter proposed setting up of 24 new government medical colleges by upgrading existing district hospitals in the country.

"The government aims to set up at least one medical for Parliamentary constituencies," he said.

In a major reform move for the higher education sector, the government has also announced a new model for funding infrastructure in the Centrally-funded higher educational institutions, calling on IITs, NITs and IIMs to pitch in with 25 per cent of total funds needed.

The minister in his Budget speech said India will

equity from the market.
"Infrastructure is the growth of GDP and inte-

to infra, 99 cities to 'turn' smart Infrastructure is the

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

Clearly emphasising that infrastructure sector is the main catapult driving the Indian economy, Union finance minister Arun Jaitley has hiked the allocation for the big ticket sector in the Union Budget by ₹1 lakh crore to ₹5.97 lakh crore for 2018-19.

The finance minister also underlined that urbanisation is opportunity and priority and said that the government has already launched Smart City mission that aims at creating state-of-the-art amenities.

"Ninety-nine cities have been selected at an outlay of ₹2.04 lakh crore. These cities have started implementing various projects like smart roads, solar roof, intelligent transport system. Projects worth ₹2,350 crore have been completed and work of ₹20,850 crore has been under progress," Mr Jaitley said, adding that heritage cities will be preserved and revitalised.

need massive investments in roads, air, rail and inland waterways while hinting that the money would be raised through

growth driver of the economy. Our country needs massive investment in access of ₹50 lakh crore in infrastructure to increase

growth driver of the economy. Our country needs massive investment in access of ₹50 lakh crore in infrastructure to increase growth of GDP...

— Arun Jaitley, Finance minister



grate the nation with a network of roads, airports. railways, inland water and to provide good quality services to the people," the finance minister said. Tabling the Narendra

Modi government's last full Budget ahead of 2019 general elections, Mr Jaitley said the priority accorded to the sector was evident from the fact that the Prime Minister is personally monitoring infra-structure project targets and achievements.

"The Prime Minister personally reviews the target and achievements in infrastructure sector on a regular basis. Using online monitoring system of Pragati alone, projects worth ₹9.46 lakh crore have been facilitated and fasttracked," the U finance minister said.

The budgetary allocation for the ministry of road transport and highways has been increased to ₹71,000 crore for 2018-19 from ₹64,900 crore in the

become 'iconic' tourism spots

10 sites set to

SANGEETHA G Financial Chronicle CHENNAI, FEB. 1

The Budget proposed developing of 10 tourist sites into "iconic" tourist destinations.

As the Budget did not mention which these cities are, there was lack of clarity as to whether they are already included in the PRASAD scheme of previous Budgets.

The government wants to develop 10 prominent tourist sites into Iconic Tourism destinations by holistic approach involving infrastructure and skill development, development of technology, attracting private investment, branding and marketing.

tal outlay for purchase of

new weapons, aircraft, war-

ships and other military

hardware, up from a hike of

₹86.488 crore in 2017-18 and

However, the overall out-

lay for defence accounted

for 12.10 per cent of the

total budgetary outlay of ₹24,42,213 crore for 2018-19,

and about 1.58 per cent of

all adequate for modernisa-

tion of our armed forces.

The expectation was much

more," said Laxman Behera

Studies and Analysis.

"The allocation is not at

₹78,586 crore in 2016-17.

Govt kept its focus on rural sector ncements in Budget 2018 The government too should accelerate rural

New Delhi, Feb. 1: On expected lines, the Union Budget kept its focus on rural spending in view of upcoming state polls and the general election next year. The government has proposed to spend ₹14.34 lakĥ crore in tĥe year 2018-19 to generate employment of 321 crore person days and construct infrastructure in rural areas.

Besides generating employment, this investment will lead to construction of 3.17 lakh km of roads, 51 lakh new houses, 1.88 crore toilets, and will provide electricity connections to 1.75 crore new households, finance minister Arun Jaitley said in his Budget speech.

The more funds directed at rural areas means improved livelihood for a majority of the population has proposed to spend ₹14.34L-cr in the year 2018-19 to generate employment of 321 crore person days and construct infrastructure in rural areas

posable income. This will help boost consumption and hence drive the country's demand. While making the propos-

als in this year's Budget, Mr Jaitley said that the government was guided by its mission to strengthen agriculture and rural development besides other sectors of the country's economy. "As my proposals outlined

indicate, focus of the government next year will be on providing maximum and increase in their dis- livelihood opportunities in

rural areas by spending more on livelihood, agriculture and allied activities and construction of rural infrastructure," the minis-

He also announced increase in allocation for the National Rural Livelihood Mission to ₹5,750 crore in 2018-19 from ₹4,500 crore. Further, loans to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) increased to about ₹42,500 crore in 2016-17. The government is confident that loans to SHGs will increase to ₹75,000 crore by March next vear.

watchers Economy termed Budget proposals as cautiously populist. They welcomed the government move to set minimum support price (MSP) for kharif crops at one-and-half times of production cost as it will accelerate demand. "The government annoufrom increasing Kharif crop MSP to 1.5 times the production cost. The infrastructure focus of the government is very strong on rural areas and highways. With almost 50 per cent of two-wheeler demand coming from rural and semiurban India, Budget 2018 should have a positive impact on customer sentiments," said Yadvinder Singh Guleria, senior vicepresident (sales & marketing), Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd With a focus on digitisa-

demand. With firm thrust

on rural economy is evident

tion, government has also proposed to set up five lakh Wi-Fi hotspots which will provide broadband access to five crore rural citizens. By arrangement with

the Financial Chronicle

India's digital push evident in Budget

Financial Chronicle BENGALURU, FEB. 1

The Union Budget presentation on Thursday, for the first time, featured deep-tech terms like machine learning, artificial intelligence, robotics, big data, Internet of things, quantum communication, etc.

Industry observers say it indicates the government's political push towards making India a digital economy.

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget presentation said these are the technologies of the future and Niti Aayog would establish a national programme to conduct research and development in these emerging areas. *Financial*

Chronicle spoke to captains of the industry to gather their views on the digital readiness of the government. Kris Gopalakrishnan,

co-founder and former MD and CEO of Infosys "The government's focus on emerging tech areas will help create a

comprehensive ecosystem in the country and thereby benefiting people across the length and breadth of the country in terms of lastmile, broadband access.

V. Ramakrishnan, CFO at TCS, said, "Several programmes announced in the Budget represent big strides in building a Digital India: the outlay for the smart cities initiative; the plans to explore blockchain technology; the national program for adoption of artificial intelligence and for research, training and skilling in cyber-physical systems; the innovative use of technology to digitally reimagine agricultural markets to empower small and marginal farmers; and the extending of broadband access to 5 crore rural citizens to bridge the digital divide.

"We welcome the government's thrust on encouraging R&D pursuits in the areas of AI, machine learning, robotics and edge analytics," said L&T Technology Services, CEO & MD, Keshab Panda.

Defence gets ₹2.95L-cr, mere 7.81% hike

■₹1,08K-cr been set aside for paying pension to defence personnel

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

The 2018-19 Budget set aside just ₹2.95 lakh crore for the upcoming financial year for defence, a mere 7.81 per cent hike from ₹2.74 lakh crore last year and a 5.91 pre cent growth over last year's revised estimates.

The outlay belied expectations of a major hike in defence outlay due to the changing security dynamics in the South Asia region, including a strained relation with Pakistan and one fraught with tension with China.

Again, only ₹99,947 crore has been set aside for capi-

Marginal increase of 2.79% for CBI

New Delhi: The CBI has been allocated ₹698.38 crore in the Budget for 2018-19, a marginal increase of 2.79 per cent compared to the ongoing fiscal. In the last five Budgets, this is the lowest hike announced for the agency which is probing several high-profile cases and grappling with over-stretched resources.

Institute of Defence also announced measures to develop two defence Finance minister Arun industrial corridors in the Jaitley in his Budget speech country, besides the plan to bring out an Production Policy 2018 to promote domestic production by public sector, private sector and MSMEs.

Welcoming the Budget, defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman said: "These are the first-ever defence production corridors being formed in the country. These defence industry corridors will give a big boost to defence production in the country.'

The revenue expenditure which includes expenses on payment of salaries and maintenance of establishments has been pegged at ₹1,95,947 crore.

INDIA INCREASES AID TO NEPAL, PEGS IT AT ₹650cr

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

With a pro-China Left government set to take over power after a landslide electoral victory in Nepal, India, in its Budget on Thursday, steeply hiked aid to Nepal to ₹650 crore for 2018-19, up from just ₹375 crore in the revised estimates for 2017-18.

India also hiked aid to Sri Lanka for 2018-19 to ₹150 crore, up from ₹75 crore in the revised estimates for 2017-18. Aid was also hiked to the Indian Ocean nation of Seychelles with which New Delhi had inked an agreement for "the develmanagement, operation and mainte-nance of facilities" on the Island of Assumption Seychelles.

India has been engaged

in counter-piracy and counter-terrorism cooperation with Seychelles and this is part of the security cooperation that India is strengthening with Indian Ocean nations like the Seychelles at a time when China is increasing its footprints in the Indian Ocean. New Delhi has also steeply hiked aid to Bangladesh and for this, ₹175 crore has been allocated for 2018-19, up from just ₹65 crore in the revised estimates for

NIRANJAN HIRANANDANI Chairman, Hiranandani Group

A GOOD BUDGET WITH A SOCIALIST TOUCH

he announcement that 50 crore people will get L insurance cover is really a remarkable thing.
When he started his Budget

speech, Union finance minister Arun Jaitley said what has been largely expected that the Budget will focus on agriculture and rural economy. He did not disappoint this expectation, with what is largely a 'Socialist" Budget.

The finance minister has managed to balance populist demands, the need to support economic growth and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on fiscal discipline and

From a real estate perspec-

tive, Mr Jaitley said the government will establish a dedicated, affordable housing fund in the National Housing Bank through various funding measures. This is a welcome step.

Mr Jaitley's mention of

reducing hardships faced in realty was "positive" In his Budget speech, the finance minister mentioned the 5 per cent deferential to be allowed from ready reckoner

This will benefit buyers in the current market scenario, but if deferential goes above 5 per cent, it can get tricky — no real estate developer will be able to reduce price-point beyond 5 per Mr Jaitley has managed to balance populist demands, the need to support economic growth and PM Modi's focus on fiscal discipline and reforms

Targets of Swachcch **Bharat, rural electricity** and LPG connections have been increased substantially

It was also positive to see suburban railways in Mumbai find a mention in the Budget, with "Improved railway network and accessibility generally have a positive multiplier effect on real estate," he added.

The finance minister while stating that India needed investments over ₹50 lakh crore in infrastructure to "increase growth of GDP, connect and integrate the nation with a network of roads, airports, railways, ports and inland waterways and to provide good quality services" said that the government would be enhancing public investment.

Targets of Swachcch Bharat, rural electricity and LPG connections have been increased substantially, which is a positive approach. The Budget takeaway: Focus on 'ease of living' after 'ease of doing business'.

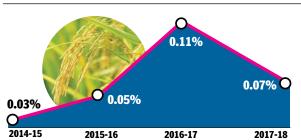
Creation of a dedicated Affordable Housing Fund will go a long way towards meeting the Prime Minister's vision of "Housing for All by 2022", the finance minister mentioning about reducing hardships faced in realty deals "positive", 5 per cent deferential allowed from ready reckoner rate will benefit buyers in the current market scenario, but if deferential goes above 5 percent, it can get tricky. Overall, a Socialist Budget, focused on rural and agriculture — good for economy, could have been more focused on housing, one that I would rate at 7.



Overall it was a good Budget with lot of focus on rural development as well infrastructure. The government has made huge allocation for urban infrastructure... The focus on external infrastructure will benefit the housing sector...

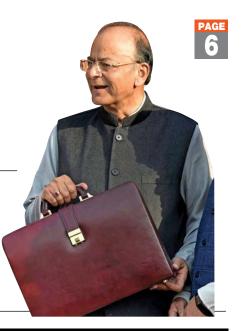
BUDGF

agriculture



>> FARMERS RESCUE | Crop insurance has been devised for protecting farmers from vagaries of monsoon. The government has allocated 0.03% of GDP towards crop insurance in 2014-15, and increased it in next two years. The allocation has come down in 2017-18 as percentage of GDP ₹55,000cr

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT



Budget takes poll route

Stamping that the road to power for the second term in New Delhi will lead through villages, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last budget before the general elections 2019 promised to end farmer's perennial distress.

Aware of the wrath of rural voters in recently concluded Gujarat elections, finance minister Arun Jaitley left no stone unturned to please this segment in his budget for 2018-19. In fact, more than half of Jaitley's one hour and fifty minute budget speech was devoted to programmes for the welfare of farmers and the rural community.

So the finance minister has not only given ear to the suggestions to raise MSP on all crops but has also tasked Niti Aayog put in place a fool-proof mechanism in consultation with central and state governments enabling farmers to get adequate price for their produce.

In a major bonanza to farmers, Jaitley has also proposed hiking the agri-cultural credit target for the next fiscal by Rs 1 lakh crore to a whopping Rs 11 lakh crore. The target was Rs 8.5 lakh crore in 2014-15 and has been gradually increasing under the NDA government.

Also, the allocation for the food-processing ministry has been doubled to support the sector sector that is at the cusp of next wave of growth with investment of over \$ 18 billion expected over next

four years.
"...Government is committed for the welfare of For decades, country's agriculture policy and programme had remained production centric. We have sought to affect a paradigm shift. onourable Prime Minister gave a clarion call to double farmers' income by 2022 when India celebrates its 75th year of independence. Our

emphasis is on generating higher incomes for farmers," Jaitley said in his budget speech.

Shares of agriculturerelated stocks surged up to 10 per cent on Thursday with FMs clear focus on strengthening agricultural and rural economy.

Jaitley said that the government has decided to fix the MSP of coming Kharif (summer sown) crops, which include maize, soyabean and pulses, at least one-and-half times the cost of production or 50 per cent higher than cost. MSPs of most of rabi (winter sown) crops have

already been raised. Besides, the Budget has also given indication for introduction of a new 'Price Deficiency Payment' system or PDP in the agriculture sector that would give direct subsidy to farmers in case market rates fell below the minimum support price (MSP) of a crop. Jaitley said that for this Niti Aayog will putting in place of an

institutional mechanism. 'The Budget talks about linking MSP to cost of production. What would be important is to incentivize the right crop mix such that farmer income is maximized. We should be careful about not incentivizing production of crops which are not profitable for farmers," said Arindam Guha, partner, Deloitte India

It may be noted that government has shifted its target from productivity to income in the agriculture sector. Given that overall prices of agri pro-duce have dropped significantly in recent months, all the farmers are not happy with the Modi government as they are not getting fair prices for crops. This has reflected in sporadic agitation by farmers over sinking prices of milk, potatoes, onions and lentil (masoor)

in recent times. The agri focused budget has also addressed the concerns of secondary sectors as a Rs 10,000 crore fund has been proposed to build infrastructure for fisheries and agua culture, and animal husfacility of Kisan Credit Cards has been extended to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to help them meet their

working capital needs. Jaitley said that the government will also take steps to boost exports of agriculture commodities, which have the potential of reaching \$ 100 billion. The country's agricultural exports are around \$ 30 billion at present.

STEPS PLANNED

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY will reorient ongoing programmes to promote cluster-based horticulture production.

SUPPORT PRICE of Kharif crops.

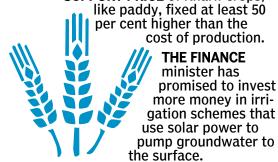


FIGURE THIS

₹11 lakh cr

Institutional credit to agriculture to be raised to

2022

The year by which the government wants to double the farmers' income.



EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

 Tender Notice, Sr. Divisional Electrica ingineer/TRS, East Central Railway, Gomot on behalf of the President of India invites
Open" E-tender from the eligible an
experienced agencies or contractors for F experienced agencies or contractors for E-Tender No. ELS_401_VS_16-17_07

Particulars are as under:
1. Name of the work with its location:
Repairing of Valve-sets of Traction Converter
for 3 -ph electric locomotives = 60 sets,
Location: Electric Loco Shed, Gomoh 2.
Approx. Cost of the work: Rs.
2,50,16,382.44 (Rupees Two Crore fifty lakh
sixteen thousand three hundred eighty two and Particulars are as under: paise forty four only) 3. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,75,090/- (Rupees Two lakh seventy five thousand ninety only) 4. Date & Time for submission of tender & closing of tender: submission or tender a closing of tender at 10.00 hrs. on 12.03.2018 5. Website particulars where Tender document is available: IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids online through this website only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall tender and any such manual offer received shall tender and any such manual other received such manual other received such manual other received such ender can be seen: Notice board of Electric Loco Shed, Gomoth.

Sr. DEE/TRS, E.C. Railway! Gomoth PR/1635/DHN/ELEC/T/17-18/32

GROWTH

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Date: 23.01.2016

Tender Notice, Open E-tenders in single packet system are invited by Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur for & on behalf of the President of India for the worker's

S. No.: 1, Name of the work with its Location:
Work of trenching, laying of underground signalling cables/ power cable, casting or

oundations, supply of certain equipment naterials, erection of apparatus cases, fixing

quipment, wiring, testing & commissioning in onnection with modification of Pane

nterlocking at stations, MACLS at LC Gate ir Raxaul - Sugauli - Narkatiaganj - Valmikinaga: section of East Central Railway under Deputy

Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Railway Electrification, Danapur to suit 25 K.V. AC Traction with following details: I) RE Modification of existing PI at 14 stations. (ii) RE

nodification of existing MACLS at 11 LC gate 5. No. : 2, Approximate Cost of work: Re

S. No.: 2, Approximate Cost or work: rs. 49199059.76 (Rs. Four crore ninety one lakh ninety nine thousand fifty nine and paise seventy six only). S. No.: 3, Earnest Money: Rs. 396000.00 (Rs. Three lakh ninety six thousand only) S. No.: 4, Tender closing date and time: 05.03.2018 up to 12.00 hrs. S. No.: Website particular and notice heard

Website particular and notice board

location where complete details of tender can be seen etc. : (http://www.ireps.gov.in) Notice Board at the office of Chief Projec Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur, Near

agjeevan Stadium, PO.: Khagaul, District Patna, PIN-801105, NOTE :- Original/revise

oids are to be submitted online up to closin

date and time on IREPS website only, Manua offers are not allowed against this tender an any such manual offer received shall be

digital signing certificate and register them o this website to participate in the tender.

Dy. CSTE/RE/ Danapu PR/1624/RE/S&T/T/17-18/48

mmarily rejected. Tenderer should get the

Date: 23.01.2018

the works of -

PLANTING THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED CRORES OF RUPEES TO DEVELOP POOR RURAL AREAS AND HELP STRUGGLING FARMERS IN ITS ANNUAL BUDGET.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

THE GOVERNMENT had promised in the previous budget to double farmer incomes in the next five years and bring 10 million households out of

poverty by 2019.

BUT MANY still live and work in near penury at the mercy of loan sharks and a harsh climate, and rural disaffection has stoked protests and a rise

in farmer suicides in recent vears.

ACCESS TO water is particularly problematic in the country, where less than half of all agricultural land is irrigated.

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER [ID: 2018_AAI_6035_1] Percentage rate tenders are invited by Senior Manager Engg. (Civil)

CHQ-NER, Airports Authority of India, on behalf of Chairman, AAI from the eligible contractors for the work: "Appointment of Engineering Consultant for C/o ATC cum Technical block and allied works at Dibrugarh Airport." for an estimate cost ₹ 3293.49 Lakhs with a period of completion 36 (Thirty Six) Months.Last date and time of submission of bid document is 16.02.2018 up to 1800 hrs. For detailed information, log on to CPP portal: https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Further clarification/corrigendum, if any, will be notified through CPP N-181/2017-18 Portal only.

drainage system at L.C. No. 286, 294 295 CG-1 & CG-7 under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/(East)

Bilaspur. Tender Value (In ₹) 1,33,48,126/-, EMD (In ₹) 2,16,750/-.
(2) E-Tender No.:DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-173-2017-18, Date: 29.01.2018 Work: Casting & insertion of RCC bo by pushing technique & provision of RCC box by cast-in-situ for crossing of 2 nos. 900 mm diameter undergrour make-up water pipe lines of NTPC a

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice for

Construction works

(1) E-Tender No.:DRM-ENGG-BSP-T

172-2017-18. Date: 29.01.2018

Work: Improvement of drainage of

existing LHS by providing effective

KM 524/04 and 524/10 in between IB Brajrajnagar station under the urisdiction of ADEN/Raigarh. Tende Value (In ₹): 5.43.61.996/-, EMD (In ₹): 4,21,810/-. (3) E-Tender No.:DRM-ENGG-BSP T-174-2017-18. Date: 29.01.2018 24 coach trains at Karkeli, Lorha Rupound & Jhalwara, WBM work o half of the platform at Chandia Roa Goods shed and construction of or

unit type-III quarter at Rupound for sectional JE/SSE/P.Way under the

jurisdiction of ADEN/Umaria. Tender

(in ₹): 2,24,09,218.07/

EMD (In ₹): 2.62,050/-Last date of Submission of Tende

Value

Upto 16.00 hrs. on 07.03.2018. The complete information of above -Tender Notices is available ov websites http://www.ireps.gov.in Bids other than e-bids shall not be

Divl. Railway Manage (Engg.)/BSP

🔞 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🔕

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager

(Engg)/ E.C. Railway/Samastipur for

and on behalf of the President of India

invites Open Tender from experienced

and financially capable tenderers

including those registered with

Government Department like

Irrigation/CPWD/MES or any Public

Sector Undertaking for the following

vorks in E-Tendering mode of IREP:

web portal of Indian Railways:- SI

No. 1- Tender Notice No: TC-16-SP.

Name of work : Supply of welding

Portion (60KG/90UTS) and other

accessories for welding of rail Joint by

SKV process with Single Shot Crucible

method in connection with CTR (P) and

other works from MFP-SGL. Tender

Value. (In ₹) : 1,28,58,004.7 Earnest

Money. (In ₹): 2,14,300/- Cost of

Tender document. (In ₹): 5000/-

Completion period of the work.: 06

nonths SI. No. 2- Tender Notice No.

TC-17-SPJ Name of work: Supply of

welding portion (52KG/90UTS) and

other accessories for welding of rail join

by SKV process with Single Sho

Crucible Method in connection with

various P. way works in the jurisdiction

of SR. DEN/II Tender Value. (In ₹)

1,88,37,568.64 **Earnest Money. (In ₹)**

2,44,190/- Cost of Tender document

(in ₹): 5000/- Completion period of

the work.: 12 months Sl. No. 3

Tender Notice No: TC-18-SPJ Name

of work: Sagauli-Paniyahwa and

Sagauli :- TTR (CS+CMSC)=55 Sets.

Tender Value. (In₹) : 1,00,32,284.7

Earnest Money. (In₹) : 2,00,170/- Cost

of Tender document. (In₹): 5000/-

Completion period of the work.: 1

nonths 1. Receiving Date & time for

E-Tender mode on IREPS web porta

Opening Date & time for E-Tender

On same date after 15.00 hours. 3

Website particulars where complete

details of tender & tender documen

can be seen on Website: www

PR/1656/SPJ/ENGG/T/ 17-18/ 68 E.C. Railway/ Samastipur

Sr. Divl. Engineer/Co-or

13-03-2018 upto 15.00 hours. 2

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY **TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No. RE-DNR-Engg-Gr-203-WT-06 On behalf of the President of India, Chief Project director (Engg),Railway Electrification, Danapur, invites E-tende for the following work from experienced financially and technically sound

ontractors, to be opened on 27.02.2018.

. Name of the work & its location Construction of 1 No OHE-Cum-PS Depot, 1 No AEE office, 2 Nos. Towe Nagon Shed with siding at Kaparpura and Sugauli Station, 4 Units Ty II, 4 units Ty III & unit Ty IV Staff Quarters along with all ancillary works viz. Earth Work, Boundary wall, Approach Road, Drains, Pipeline & Sanitary Work etc. at Sugauli Station in connection with Bailway Electrification of MFP-SGL-VKNR including SGL-RXL E.C. Bailway, 2. Approximate cost of the work: ₹6,34,88,384.77 3. Earnest Money to be deposited:₹4,67,450.00 4. Date fo submission of the tender and opening of Tender: For submission:- From 13.02.2018 & Up to 11:00 Hours on 27.02.2018 Tender will be opened at 1:30 Hrs on 27.02.2018. 5. Website Particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from here the tender issued etc. : website https://ireps.gov.in/ Notice board location & Add. of the office :- Office of the Chief Project Director (Engg), Railway Electrification, Danapur (Near jagieeval Stadium), PO-Khagaul, Patna-801105

Chief Project Director (Engg.) PR/1647/RE/ENGG/T/17-18/48 Railway Electrification, Danapur

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER ON LINE (E-TENDERING)

The Dy. Chief Engineer (BRL), E.C Railway Hajipur is inviting online (E. endering) Open Tender for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractor with experience inancial capability including those registered/working with Railway Irrigation/CPWD/MES or an other public sector undertaking for the

Tender Notice No. BRL/DNR/EOT 18/02 dtd. 29.01.2018. Tender No. BRL/ DNR/EOT/18/02. SI. No. 1.Name of the work with its location : Open e-Tende for Periodical Painting of bridge girder o bridge no 7 DB of 121 M clear span, shore span 01 to 04 (clear span 30.5M) & 01 t 06 viaduct (clear span 18.3M) under DY CE/BRL/HJP of Danapur division. 2 Approx. cost of work (₹): ,51,16,184.62 3. Earnest Money to be deposited (₹): 2,25,590.00 4. Tender Document Cost (₹): 5,000.00 5. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender: The tender have to e submitted online on www.ire ps.gov.in. upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of pening i.e. 12-3-2018 and will be pened on the same day after 12.00 hrs. Website particulars, Notice board ocation where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender from can be purchased etc. 1. Detailed tende otice, eligibility criteria & tende documents can be seen from the CRIS website: http://www.ireps.gov.in & ful letails of notice can be seen on notice board. All corrigendum will be uploaded

on website if required. Dy. Chief Engineer (BRL) PR/1643/HQ/ENGG/T/17-18/52 E.C.Railway, Hajipur

CITY UNION BANK LTD. Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. Phone: 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax: 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 and one of the Branch Offices at No.86, GST Road, Thimmakulam, Chengalpet - 603 001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)&(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 16-11-2017 calling upon the borrowers No.1) M/s. Sai Ram & Co., No. 23/121, GST Road, Dharmaraja Kulam, Chengalpet, Also at M/s. Sai Ram & Co., No.4J, Muthurajan Street, Rathinakinaru, Chengalpet, Kancheepuram. No.2) Mrs. R. Johnsirani, W/o. D. Ramachandran, No.131, Chembaruthi Street, JCK Nagar, Chengalpet, Kancheepuram 603 002. No.3) Mr. D. Ramachandran, S/o. Dhanapal, No.131, Chembaruthi Street, JCK Nagar, Chengalpet, Kancheepuram - 603 002 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.35,59,995/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Five Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 14-11-2017 with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 31st day of January 2018. The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.35.59.995/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Five Only) and interest thereon from 14-11-2017 till the repayment of entire dues.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property owned by Mr. D. Ramachandran, S/o. Mr. Dhanapal)

Property situated at Plot No. SLC -109, Nanja S.No.256/29, Old S.No.256/1, Door No.109/3, NGGO Nagar, V.No.229, Melamaiyur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk and within the Sub-Registration District of JSR-I Chengalpattu, Plot measuring 41 x 60 ft. to an extend of 2,460 Sq.ft. with the following Boundaries: On the North by: 30 feet E x W Wide Road - 41 feet, On the South by : Plot Nos.97 & 98 - 41 feet, On the East by : Plot No. 110 - 60 feet, On the West by: Plot No.108 - 60 feet. With a constructed area of 828 Sq.ft. G.F 414 Sq.ft. and First Floor 414 Sq.ft.

Place: NGGO Nagar, Chengaipattu, Date: 31-01-2018

CITY UNION BANK LTD. Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Authorised Officer

its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 and one of the Branch Offices at No.24, Mahalakshmi Nagar, Kancheepuram High Road, Thimmavaram, Chengalpet Tk., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)&(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 07-11-2017 calling upon the borrowers No.1) M/s. Shri Shengalvaraya Textiles & Readymades, No.1509, Kancheepuram High Road, Thimmavaram, Chengalpattu Taluk -603 101. No.2) Mrs. G. Pachaiyammal, W/o. S. Govindarajan, No.18/263, Padavattamman Nagar, Thimmavaram, Chengalpattu Taluk - 603 101. No.3) Mr. S. Govindarajan, S/o. Shengalyarayan, No.18/263, Padayattamman Nagar, Thimmayaram, Chengalpattu Taluk -603 101. No.4) Mr. G. Iniyanrajan, S/o. S. Govindarajan, No.18/263, Padavattamman Nagar, varam, Chengalpattu Taluk - 603 101 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.22,34,763/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Three Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 07-11-2017 with monthly rests

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 31st day of January 2018. The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.7.67.770/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Only) (after taking into account the closure/subsequent repayments into the loan/cash credit facility) and interest ereon from 17-01-2018 till the repayment of entire dues.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank Property Owned by Mrs. G. Pachaiyammal, W/o. S. Govindarajan

Site measuring 29 cents (0.11.9 hec.) comprised in S.No.1104/2E1A1A1A1A in Patta No.1255 situate in Iniyan Nagar, Padavattamman Nagar, Athur B Block Village Athur Mathura Thimmavaram Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Sub-Registration District of Chengalpet Joint II and Registration District of Kancheepuram together with Ground + First Floor Residential Building - Builtup area Ground Floor - 600 Sq.ft. First Floor - 600 Sq. ft. building thereon having the following boundaries and measurements:

Boundaries	As per legal opinion	As per site observation	Measurements		
On the North by	Plot No.48, 49	Vacant Land	17.4 mt.		
On the South by Anandhagopal's land in S.No.1103/1		Vacant land	16.8 mt.		
On the East by	Radha Naicker's land in S.No.1104/1A	Vacant land (S.No.1104/1A)	69.8 mt.		
On the West by Plot No.11, 12, 31, 32 and access roads		Plot No.11 vacant land 68.8 mt. Plot No.12,31 & 32, Residential building and access layout Road (Iniyan Nagar)			
Place : Iniyan Nag	par, Date: 31-01-2018	Autho	rised Officer		

TENDERS / NOTICES

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting E-Tender

Tender No.M/TRD/29/I/OT/16-17/7R2, 17-18/1R3, 4R2 & 9 Dated 31.01.2018

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager/ Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 600 003 invites ONLINE tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for TRD / WORKS in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

SI.No. Tender No. & Name of Work

Tender No.M/TRD/29/I/OT/16-17/7 R3

Hiring of 1 No. of multi utility pick up Road vehicle for transporting men and materials along with driver for a period of 12 Months for the use of PSI Depot at Tambaram under the jurisdiction of ADEE / TRD / TBM covered between Chennai Beach - Villupuram Section in Chennai Division.

Tender No.M/TRD/29/I/OT/17-18/1 R3 Relocating of tilted / leaned masts / structures on account of flood and soil

erosion in critical locations - 125 Nos. in Chennai Division. Tender No.M/TRD/29/I/OT/17-18/4 R2

OHE modification works in connection with electrification of Anna Nagar and ICF yard with PSI switching arrangements in Chennai Division. Tender No.M/TRD/29/I/OT/17-18/9

Provision of Auxiliary Transformers with all Accessories in connection with Replacement of Route Relay Interlocking system with Electronic Interlocking at Jolarpettai Junction in Chennai Division.

ON 10	5	Approximate Cost of Work (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Closing Date of E-Tender (at 14.00 Hrs.)	Completion Period of the Work (in Months)	
Г	ī	4,81,464.00	1,120/-	9,630/-	07.03.2018	Twelve	
[2	2	33,79,262.00	3,360/-	67,590/-	07.03.2018	Twelve	
[3	3	31,44,321.80	3,360/-	62,890/-	07.03.2018	Twelve	
4	ı	40,55,534.60	3,360/-	81,120/-	07.03.2018	Twelve	
				. 1			

Website Particulars The detailed terms and conditions are available in the Website

Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution Branch Chennai Division, Chennai - 3

CITY UNION BANK LTD. Administrative Office: No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 Phone: 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax: 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 The following property/les mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs. 72,51,703/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakh Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Three Only) as on 04-12-2017 together with further interest to be charged from 05-12-2017 onwards and other expenses, due from the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. Sri Vari Caterers, No.9, Jaswanth Nagar Extension, Mogappair West, Chennai - 37. Also at M/s. Sri Vari Caterers, No.47 1st Floor, PH Road, Nerkundram, Chennai- 600 107. No.2) Mr. B. Prathap, S/o. S. Baskar Rao No.9, Jaswanth Nagar Extension, Mogappair West, Chennai - 37, Also at Mr. B. Prathap, S/c S. Baskar Rao, No. 43/19, 6th Block, Shri Apartments, Mogappair East, Chennai - 37. No.3) Mrs. P. Harini, W/o. B. Prathap, No.9, Jaswanth Nagar Extension, Mogappair West Chennai - 37. No.4) Mr. S. Baskar Rao, S/o. R. Sarveswara Rao, No.43/19, 6th Block Shri Apartments, Mogappair East, Chennai - 600 037. Also at Mr. S. Baskar Rao, S/o. R. Sarveswara Rao, No.9, Jaswanth Nagar Extension, Mogappair West, Chennai - 37. Also at Mr. S. Baskar Rao, S/o. R. Sarveswara Rao, Flat No.S-11, Second Floor, No. 135, Dharma Nagar, Ayapakkam, Chennai - 600 077. No.5) Mrs. B. Gokila, W/o. S. Baskar Rao, No.43/19

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank Schedule-A (Properties owned by Mr. S. Baskar Rao, S/o, R. Sarveswara Rao)

6th Block, Shri Apartments, Mogappair East, Chennai - 600 037. Also at Mrs. B. Gokila W/o. S. Baskar Rao, No.13/5, Dharma Nagar, Ayapakkam, Chennai - 600 077.

Item - 1.: In Tiruvallur District, Ambattur Taluk, in Ayapakkam Village in the approved layout named as "Dharma Nagar" (CMDA Approved Layout PPD/LO No.81/2005), comprising S.No. 262/1 (Part), Plot No. 13 measuring an extent of 2,373 Sq.ft., <u>Bounded on .</u> North by 24 Feet Road, Scuth By : Plot No.12, East by : Plot No.14, West by : 24 Feet Road. <u>Measurements:</u> East to West on the Northern side - 39'3", East to West on the Southern side - 49'3", North to South on the Eastern side - 49'3", North to South on the Western side - 39'3" (North & West Splay 14'0") in all Totalling 2,373 Sq.ft. Item: 2:579 Sq.ft. undivided Share out of the property described i item 1 above. Item: 3: Flat No.E in Block No."A" in Second Floor measuring 1,060 Sq.f of Plinth area including common areas in the building constructed in item 1 above situate within the Sub-Registration District of Ambattur and Registration District of Chennai North.

Reserve Price: Rs.29,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Only)

Schedule-B (Property owned by Mr. S. Baskar Rao, S/o. R. Sarveswara Rao)

All that piece and portion of H.I.G. Flat No.19, in Second Floor, in Block No.43, comprised in S.No.344/1 (Part) in Mogappair Village in Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Bounded on: North by : Road and Nursery School, South by : Flat No.43/20, East by : Scheme Boundary West By : Flat No. 43/18. Measurements : 74.78 Sq. metre of plinth area together with undivided share to an extent of 68.54 Sq.metre in the land situated within the Sub-Registration District of Konnur and Registration District of Chennal North.

Reserve Price: Rs.38,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Only) **AUCTION DETAILS** Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale Venue City Union Bank Limited, Ayappakkam Branch, D.No.6284, Thiruverkadu Main Road, 22-02-2018 Avappakkam - 600 077

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Ayappakkam Branch, D.No.6284, Thiruverkadu Main Road, Ayappakkam -600 077. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for ar EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noor on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.044-26823033, Cell No. 9345439768.

(5) The propertylies are sold on "As-is-where-is" and "As-is-what-is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 1.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall b conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancer

TENDER NOTICE

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 01-02-2018



ireps.gov.in

NLC India Limited ly Road, Chennai - 600 031 ct, Tamil Nadu.

SALE OF RAW LIGNITE THROUGH e-AUCTION The following e-Auctions for the sale of Raw Lignite will be conducted by M/s. MSTC Limited, Chennai on "as-is-where-is and no complain

basis only" as detailed below:								
Product	e-Auction No.			Qty / Tonnes	Location / Unit			
Raw Lignite	FAR! -34		Any Big Buyer / User or their authorized agents	5,00,000	Mine-IA			
	EARL-33		Any Small Buyer / User or their authorized agents	50,000				

For further details contact: **The General Manager, Sales & Marketing** Administrative Office / Mine-I & IA, Block-26, Neyveli-607 803 Telephone & Fax: 04142-228349.

e-Mail: sales.marketing@nlcindia.com To participate in the -Auctions please register online at www.mstcecommerce.com FOR FURTHER DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT: www.nlcindia.com PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS: HELP IT TO HELP YOU

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION 1, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad-211001

E-Tender Notice No. ELCORE-T-PMC-Gr.-212 & 213- Mod On behalf of the President of India, Chief Administrative Officer (RE) Central Organization Railway Electrification, Nawal Yusuf Road, Civil lines Allahabad- 211001 invites following E-Tender:-

Project Management Consultancy services for Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commission of 25 KV, 50 Hz, Single Phase electrification works (OHE, TSS, SCADA & Electric General, S&T and Civil Engineering works) in Ahmedabad (Excl.) - Rajkot section (Gr.-212) & Mehsana (Excl.)-Viramgam - Samkhiyali section (Gr.- 213) of Ahmedabad & Rajkot Division of Western Rly, unde RE Project, Ahmedabad Total 525 RKM/1066.31 TKM.

Tender Type	Open	Bidding System	Two Packet System	
Tender Closing Date & Time	07.03,2018 15:00 Hrs.	Advertised Value (₹)	108905142.76	
Pre-Bid Required	Yes	Pre-Bid Query/Conference	16.02.2018 11:30 Hrs.	
		Date & Time		
Earnest Money (₹)	694530.00	Tender Doc. Cost (₹)	10000.00	
Validity of Offer (Days)	90	Period of Completion	36 Months	

Note: 1- The complete information of above E- Tender and Tender document are available on IREPS website i.e www.ireps.gov.in. **2. <u>Only E-Bids shall be accepted against above Tender.</u> The e-bids may be submitted before** 15.00 hrs on tender closing date. Chief Administrative Officer (RE), Central Organization Railway Electrification, Allahabad FOR & ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA No. PR/35/18 R.D. Adv

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FRIDAY | 2 FEBRUARY 2018 | CHENNAI

Chronicle

2 FEBRUARY 2018

Finally, rural India gets some attention

he pathbreaking Budget that finance minister Arun Jaitley presented on Thursday stands out for its heavy tilt towards the revival and development of rural India's economy. Earlier, agriculture usually got a passing mention as the focus was on industry. While India may no longer live in its villages, as Mahatma Gandhi once said, it's a fact that 60 per cent of the population still lives in villages and small towns. Bharat, as rural India is often called, has long been neglected and deprived of facilities like healthcare and education in favour of urban India, which became a magnet for young village youth seeking employment. Whether the change of heart was brought about by the large number of farmers' suicides or it's a considered policy to make amends for the devastation caused to cash-reliant rural India by the harebrained demonetisation move, the tilt was long overdue. There are several advantages to developing roads and rural electrification as these would not only provide jobs but also increase rural productivity and boost the overall economy. More purchasing power in rural areas will boost consumption of healthcare, consumer and white goods produced in urban India. It's a fact that in areas where there's no electrification life comes to a standstill after sunset. There are 40 million households that still don't have electricity. This will hopefully be remedied if the rural electrification and sanitation programmes are implemented sincerely, specially in

the last mile — that is, actually reaching people's homes.

But Mr Jaitley's real game-changer was the National Health Protection Scheme, covering 10 crore poor families or 50 crore people. This could help bring a sheen to India's global image, where it ranks 154 out of 195 countries on healthcare access, according to the UK's prestigious *Lancet*. India, which prides itself in being the fastest growing economy, lags behind Nepal, Bangladesh, Ghana and Liberia on this front. The NHPS, or "Modicare", as some analysts called it, will be the largest such scheme worldwide, covering five lakh families annually for hospitalisation care. This is good news for hospitals and it must be ensured hospitals don't hike

There are a few negatives in the Budget — like the status quo on individual income-tax, where some concessions were expected. Perhaps the finance minister has a good reason for this, and may reveal it soon. Interestingly, the Budget will boost private investment as customs duty has been imposed on items like mobile chargers and TVs. Manufacturing, which is a low 24.2 per cent of GDP compared to the world average of 30.5 per cent, may get a much-needed push due to the reduction in corporate tax. This is a silver lining for private investment, languishing due to lack of incentives.

Finally, it's a Budget with a heart, with something for everyone: from infrastructure to the small and medium industries to salaried people, women, retirees and senior citizens

Speak up on Afghanistan

t a lunch for UN Security Council members, US President Donald Trump said that after the recent "atrocities" in Afghanistan — a ref-Lerence to a spate of ghastly attacks in Kabul last week — his government wouldn't hold talks with the Taliban. He added, though, that if talks were held, it would "be a long way off".

The anger is palpable, and understandable. But this can't be deemed as

the final US stance. Only a month earlier, a *New York Times* report said, America's UN ambassador Nikki Haley had said all parties were prepar-

This was before the US suspended a tranche of crucial defence-related payments to Pakistan, which angered Islamabad. The succession of attacks on Kabul was a follow up. The real point, really, is Pakistan. The Taliban are only an instrumentality.

The US should say if it's prepared to take any further steps to chastise Islamabad, besides stopping defence funds. That would give Afghans hope of meaningful steps being taken.

Besides commiserating with victims of terrorist strikes in Kabul, India has said nothing of a political nature about Afghanistan lately. The least it can say is that US forces should end the futile attempt to bomb Afghan villages in search of terrorists, but focus instead on the sanctuaries inside Pakistan. Remember, India and Afghanistan are strategic allies. Every day they fight the same forces in tackling extremism and terrorism. India should voice its own thoughts, not repeat Washington's, although the two are friendly.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

A.T. JAYANTI R. Mohan

O. THOMAS

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at

Chennai: SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748

Coimbatore: 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore 641009. Phone: (0422) 2231255, 2231256 Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phone: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040)

Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: 08043460500; Fax: 080-22960551/52/55

Visakhapatnam: Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Phones: (0891) 2552333/2552334, Fax (0891) 2755285
Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866)

2555284/ 2555287, Fax (0866) 2555234

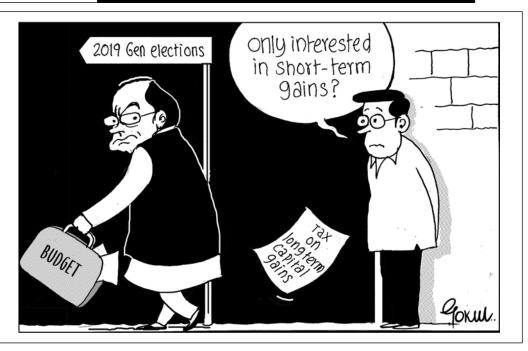
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Fax: 08534-2/0904 Nellore: Survey No. 527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/82, Telefax (0861) 2348580 Karimnagar: Survey No. 1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228098; Telefax (0878) 2220433

Holic 10678 J222990, Teleax 00763 2229453 Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Emakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

Kozhikode: No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001 Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph Press Thycaud post, Cotton Hills, Thiruvananthapuram-14, Ph: 0471-2735105/6/7, Fax: 0471-4016112 Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08s

Gokul Gopalakrishnan



A tame exercise: Has govt run out of steam?

DECCAN CHRONICLE



Venkateshwar

thrust of finance minis-Jaitley's fifth Budget was on agriculture and the rural economy. It is tempting to see this as a populist gesture for a government that will go into an election next year. The truth is that Minister Narendra Modi's gov-ernment, which had indulged in policy fire-works in the first two years, seems to have run out of steam. The Make in India, Start-Up India, Digital India and Skill India programmes seem to have fallen by the wayside. This is reflected in the subdued suggestion in the Budget speech about formulating an indigenous defence production policy, and this at the end of four years in office and for a party that prides itself on a hawkish stance in matters of secumodernising the armed forces and procuring arms to meet the new challenges. There was no reference to manufacturing in the Budget speech, and a passing reference to the services sector being the maineconomic stay of

growth.

The focus was on agriculture, on on-farm, offfarm jobs, on assured prices for farmers by pegging the minimum support price (MSP) at one-and-a-half times the production cost and providing ₹2,000 crores for a rural market fund, ₹500 crores for Operation Green to protect onions, potatoes and tomatoes by creating warehousing facilities, and nearly doubling the allocation for food processing sec-

tor from ₹750 crores to ₹1,400 crores. Mr Jaitley has also talked of easing restrictions on agricul-tural exports, saying that the potential for agricultural exports is \$100 billion, and that at the moment it stands at a mere \$30 billion. There is a newfound realisation that India is an agricultural country and that there is need to leverage its traditional strength, and that India becoming a manufactur-ing hub should be deferred for another

In the first year of this government there was much bravado on the part of the BJP and its leaders of moving people away from agriculture. Most BJP members of Parliament in 2014-15 had argued about the need to shift people out of agriculture. One of the reasons the Modi government wanted to amend the land acquisieasier for others to acquire land for nonagricultural purposes as farmers were not interested in being farmers. That initial enthusiasm of moving away from agriculture seems to have abated in the ruling party. When Prime Minister

Narendra Modi talked about doubling farmers' incomes by 2022 he was in a generous mood and his focus was on the manufacturing sector, and rightly so. But manufacturing has failed to take off, and as observed in the Economic Survey 2017-18, it's not able to cope with global competitiveness, apart from issues of the appreciation of the exchange rate, which affects exports. The raising of cus-

toms duties on iPhone parts and television parts is a weak gesture to protect and encourage domestic manufacturers, and give fillip to Make in India.

The Budget contains no overall strategy of growth. The belief is that the structural reforms and the push to infractivative in the infrastructure in the past three years should sustain the seven per cent growth momentum, and take it safely into the modest eight per cent growth trajectory. There is absence of ambition in pushing growth rates into double digits. It is of course realistic to be modest and avoid setting up unreachable targets. There is also some realisation in the government that India cannot plough its own furrow of growth, and that it can only grow when the global economy revives.

The incentives announced in the social sector like medical insurance of ₹5 lakhs per annum to each of 10 crore poor families is the standard welfare measure which is the attitude of a nanny state, which wants to give out of the state's bounty because the number of tax payers has increased thanks to demonetisation and the implementation Goods and Services Tax (GST), and tax revenues have grown too. Finance minister Arun Jaitley's sole satisfaction lies in the increased tax revenue bounty of the government. He said that the people celebrated demonetisation 'imaandaari ka utsav'

In 2014 PM Modi exuded confidence about transforming the country and its economy. The irrational exuberance of the government on its ability to change and guide the economy has died down...

(feast of honesty). There is not much talk about how the increased revenues would be spent on

boosting In 2014 Prime Minister Modi exuded confidence about transforming the country and its economy. The irrational exuberance of the government on its ability to change and guide the economy has died down. Even the zeal for reforms is not what it was earlier. This could be seen in Mr Jaitley pegging the disinvestment target for 2018-19 at ₹80,000 crores though he declared that last year's disinvestment target of ₹72,000 crores was exceeded and the actual collection was ₹100,000 crores. It's not the fault of the Modi establishment that it has not been able to break the barriers to growth. It underestimated the complexities involved in an economy of a giant of a country like India. These leaders believed that the Indian economy could be moulded from above

as in Singapore and South Korea. While explaining Economic Survey 2017-18. chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian had said there is no need for radical policy measures and all that the government has to do was to consolidate structural reforms like GST and the bankruptcy code. Mr Jaitley just did. 'This year's Budget will consolidate reforms," he said. The reforms were administrative like GST and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Demonetisation was not a reform by any stretch of the imagination. It is the illusion of the Modi government that a lesscash economy boosts economic growth. It may help in tax collections, but not in economic growth.

> The author is aDelhi-based commentator and analyst

LETTERS SICKENING SITUATION

Indian judiciary stands tarred again with the recommendation made by the Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra for the removal of Allahabad Justice Naravan Shukla. It is a tragedy that finally the supreme institution which is the ultimate abode from where the common man expects justice also has turned a place for dishonest occupants. What is more amusing is that Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra who has recommended removal of Justice Shukla is also under a cloud and the opposition parties are discussing about bringing impeachment proceedings

against him in Parliament. Tharcius S. Fernando,

SWIFT ACTION

The swift action initiated by the Supreme Court and the Central government to give expert treatment by AIIMS specialists to the eight-monthold rape victim in New Delhi is praiseworthy SC shocked by infant's rape. The deep concern, urgency and importance given to the safety of the child and the court's decision to hear the case in the afternoon itself are commendable. Stringent punishment, including clinical castration, must be given to the perpetrator of the brutal act committed on the infant.

K.S. Thampi,

Many congratulations to Boys-in-Blue for decimating Pakistan in the semi-final of the Under-19 cricket world cup, and sailing into the finals in an emphatic fashion. Much against expectations, India blew Pakistan away, as our young lads outplayed the opponents in all departments of the game, with Shubman Gill scoring an unbeaten century and medium pacer Ishan Porel slicing through the top orders with a four-wicket burst and in the process they made it a lop-sided contest. True to the motto of the Under-19 world cup, no Pakistani batsmen crossed 18 runs! The Indian team is now just a step away from winning the world cup for a record fourth time. Coach Rahul Dravid deserves compliments for he has done a wonderful job in shaping these lads as a potential winning unit, and no wonder a few of them have already made their way into the IPL this year.

R. Sivakumar,

Chandrajit Baneriee

Budget strikes the right note, it's realistic & well-balanced

inance minister Arun Jaitley has presented a realistic and pragmatic Budget aimed at striking the right chord with all segments of society and successfully delivering on the nation's expectations. A well-balanced Budget, the first after the implementation of GST, it provides a compelling template for lifting growth and investment even while providing a fillip to employment generation and removing rural stress. The two-pronged approach adopted by the government — to provide a boost to the economy while taking measures to enhance welfare expenditure for the poor - speaks volumes about the sagacity and

vision articulated in the Budget. Under the circumstances, the Budget has adopted just the right approach for catalysing growth with social inclusion. A well-rounded Budget, it seeks to strengthen the major growth drivers which would rev up economic activity in the medium term. It takes forward the landmark reform measures like GST, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and bank recapitalisation taken by the government

through the last three years.
At the same time, the FM has announced a slew of measures for better management of the food

economy, developing human capital through better educational opportunities and skill development, game-changing measures to improve health outcomes, social security, intensifying infrastructure investment, continuing reforms in the financial sector, incentives for startups and MSMEs, encouraging Make in India, digitisation and e-governance initiatives to improve the ease of doing business, among others. In doing so, the FM has deftly managed the daunting task of reviving the growth and invest-ment cycle while addressing the expectations caused by social and demographic changes.

The Budget offers a bold agricultural and rural thrust to give a stimulus to equity and economic growth. There is a jump in expenditure on agriculture, which is critical for improving farm productivity, creating farm and non-farm employment and augmenting farmer income.

Accordingly, the FM provides for raising the minimum support price for all unannounced kharif crops, strengthening irrigation and agriinfrastructure, enhancing credit support to farmers, facilitating agriculture marketing through the enam network, liberalising agroexports, focused incentives in areas such as horticulture, organic farming, fisheries, bamboo, among

The FM rightly recognised that substantial investment in human capital through education and skill development is vital for sustainable economic progress and for building a prosperous future. The education sector sees a new initiative of "Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education", that would hike research investments and infrastructure in higher education institutions with a significant outlay of ₹1,00,000 crores over the next four years. This is in line with CII's recommendation to encourage research in academia.

A most striking feature of the Budget is the provision on healthcare and social protection. The launch of the National Health Protection Scheme, which is anticipated to cover 50 crore beneficiaries, is a game-changer in that it would be the world's largest government-funded healthcare programme which would provide security to low-income households. The provisions on healthcare such as reducing the cost of healthcare including seeking private sector involvement in health and wellness centres through CSR reflects the Narendra Modi government's commitment towards according a

vanguard position in our development agenda.

Acknowledging the immense contribution made by the MSME sector towards growth and job creation, the Union Budget 2018-19 has announced a major tax reduction for these enterprises by lowering the corporate tax rate for enterprises with an annual turnover of upto ₹250 crores to 25 per cent. The lowering of the rate would provide more cash to units to grow faster and create more jobs.

Additionally, addressing the financing needs of this sector, special treatment to venture capital funds, addressing NPAs, promoting star tups, etc, are noteworthy. Expanding of the Mudra Yojana, online loan sanctioning and use of fintech are positive steps for the sector. CII welcomes these initiatives by the government to MSMEs which are the drivers of growth, employment generation and equitable develop-

ment across the country.
Mr Jaitley's Budget has also accepted the demand of industry and raised customs duty on select items to provide a fillip to "Make in India". CII also welcomes the extension of fixed term employment to all industries. The move towards a flexible employment policy that protects the interests of

both the employer and the employee would go a long way to boost investment and promote jobs.

Continuing with the focus on job creation, the Budget has made the right moves by further announcing measures such as extending government contribution to EPF of 12 per cent of wages for all new employees for the next three years and reducing the contribution for women to eight per cent. The relaxation in the conditions for claiming tax deduction on additional employment will help to boost new job creation in the formal sector, which was the need of the hour.

The reintroduction of standard deduction for the salaried class is a welcome measure and it would provide a much-needed relief to individual taxpayers, raise their disposable incomes and boost consumption demand in the economy.

The Budget sends a strong message towards the continuity of fiscal prudence despite the economy being buffeted by domestic and global challenges. Overall, the Budget reflects a pragmatic approach and displays a vision to drive the economy back to the path of inclusive growth.

The writer is the director-general of the Confederation of Indian Industry

Budget 2018-19: More sleight of hand



Mohan Guruswamy

Budget 2018-19 was presented at a time when the Indian economy is facing the worst slowdown in at least half a decade (according to the Central Statistical Office). While macroeconomic shocks like demonetisation and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) are likely to have contributed to the slowdown, the root of the slowdown lies in the decline of investments in the country.

The slowdown in investments has led to all-round and widespread gloom and distress. The big question about this Budget then was to see how it addresses issues arising out of this - such a job contraction in the informal sector, the slowdown of manufacturing, increasing farmer and lower middle class distress?

In a Budget, you take from some and give to others. So who gives and who takes is where we should be looking. The challenge of Budget-making is to take enough from the nearly 15 per cent of the population, or about 200 million people making up 40 million families liable for direct taxes, without dissatisfying them too much.

This should provide enough to blunt the edge of popular anger of the 60 per cent who make little more than subsistence in terms of income. This covers about 700-750 million of the population, or 150 million families. It is these people have largely been bypassed by the huge growth gains made since

1998. That means the two NDA

and two UPA terms.
Added to this, the government has to promise delivering all this with a most expensive public administration (10.4 per cent of GDP), and an almost defunct delivery system. A majority of government employees — over 25 million are the bedrock of the direct taxes-paying cohort. So, in effect, a major part of the direct taxes are realised by the government from those who work in it. In either case, we the people pay for them.

So you need to get much from others. This is where indirect taxes come in. Indirect taxes are derived from a far bigger base of the population. For instance, even the lowest sections will buy matchboxes, from which taxes are derived. As you go up the chain of manufactured goods, the incidence of indirect taxes increases. This is where you run up against powerful lobbies. For instance, polyester yarn manufacturers will look at askance at too many reliefs and benefits given to the cotton textiles sector. Balancing the Budget is the easier part. Balancing aspirations is next

Similar sleight of hand is indulged in increasing the standard deduction to ₹40,000 for salaried persons. The outlay for this is ₹8,000 crores. But the education cess goes up by one per cent, which means an outgo of ₹11,000 crores.

to impossible.

Thus, Budgets haven't really changed over the decades. An analysis of Budget breakups since 1999 shows that proportions of most heads just do not change, as GDP growth and hence tax revenues usually stay nearer where they have been before. Discretionary revenue expenditure can only go up when GDP growth really perks up, as we saw in 2009-2012. From then it has been downhill in terms of growth.

Against this backdrop, how are Narendra Modi and Arun Jaitely faring? I must say quite heroically. Like boys on the burning deck. They are just distracting us with promises and hoping to stave off the

inevitable — popular discontent. Take for instance the much-hyped National Health Protection Scheme to cover 500 million people, or 100 million families, with medical cover of up to ₹5 lakhs. But what is the outlay for this? It is a measly ₹30,000 crores, translating into a premium of about ₹3,000 per beneficiary family, whereas the prevailing premiums are at about ₹4,400 a year. Even here, the government is being disingenuous. If this were in addition to what is allocated to the ₹1.38 lakh crores for health, which was ₹1.22 lakh crores in the previous year, there would be some little cause to cheer. No, instead it comes from the health budget, which in effect means that this year less money is being spent on public healthcare.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

So if government hospitals and clinics have fewer doctors and lesser medicines, be happy with your health insurance and go to a private nursing home or corporate hospital and see how soon the cover evaporates. In effect this is a direct benefit to private healthcare providers, and insurance companies who will get a ₹30,000-

Similar sleight of hand is indulged in increasing the standard deduction to ₹40,000 for salaried persons. The outlay for this is ₹8,000 crores. But the education cess goes up by one per cent, which means an outgo of ₹11,000 crores. So who is out of pocket by ₹3,000 crores?

The government has announced that it will fund eight crore new stoves and cylinders on getting a gas con-nection. This is an existing scheme. But reports from gas agency dealers in several parts of the nation, specially those in rural areas, have reported that an extremely low number of Ujjawala beneficiaries are returning for refills of their cylinders.

Thus, the number of LPG connections may be rising rapidly, but LPG usage is not. The catch is that below poverty line families who exist on less than ₹32 a day in rural areas and ₹47 a day in urban areas are simply too poor to afford the market rate of LPG.

There was much expectation of an agriculture-oriented Nothing has been announced that would suggest that. Institutional credit to the

agriculture sector has gone up to ₹11 lakh crores when it was ₹10 lakh crores last year.

The finance minister spoke about "revitalising infrastructure and systems in education by 2022... Technology to be the biggest driver in improving the quality of education. To increase digital intensity in education, it will move infrastructure from blackboard to digital board. By 2022, every block with more than 50 per cent ST population will have Eklavya schools at par with Navodaya Vidyalayas". Fine, but show me the money? He is clearly a man for the big picture, who doesn't get into such specifics.

Am I unhappy about the Budget? Why should I be? The limit for senior citizens for investment in interest-bearing LIC schemes has doubled to from ₹7.5 lakhs ₹15 lakhs. But as Claude Pepper said: "At my age I don't even buy green

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese

FM walks the talk, honestly and judiciously, but very diffidently...



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

2018-19 appears an honest and judicious construct when conveyed aurally. The biggest relief is that there has been no substantive deviation from the path of fiscal discipline. The fiscal deficit for 2017-18 is pegged at 3.5 per cent of GDP. This is 0.30 per cent higher than the budgeted estimate for this year.

But it is well within the 0.50 leeway recommended by the N.K. Singh Committee report on Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management. With the disruptions caused by GST still lingering and the need to recapitalise banks and push public investment in an environment where the private sector is still sitting on its for losing the leeway in the interest growth and jobs.

More reassurance comes from the fiscal deficit target for 2018-19 set at 3.3 per cent of GDP. This re-establishes the declining trend for fiscal deficit towards the magic number of three per cent of GDP, which has eluded us so far.

On the expenditure side, agriculture and rural development takes centrestage. This is more than welcome against the backdrop of agrarian distress farmer suicides. Jhakkar of the Bharat Krishak Samaj points out that an Indian farmer commits suicide every 40 minutes.

No wonder then that Mr Jaitley outlined, in great detail, many of the specific measures proposed reverse this trend.

One popular, but possibly ineffective step is an assurance that all the crops notified for the kharif cycle will be covered under the minimum support price (MSP) scheme.

Basically, this means that if market prices fall below the cost of production plus 50 per cent as margin for the farmer, the government will stand committed to make good the difference (as is being done in Madhya Pradesh now) or to physically procure the produce. But representatives of

farmers' interests are not satisfied. They assert that the manner in which costs are to be determined should be spelt out in a participa-tive manner first to ensure that a meaningful MSP is assured. The downside of an MSP type of production incentive is that it kills innovation and crop diversification away from those covered under MSP. This way of assuring farmer incomes also privileges the traditional Revolution" areas in the North, which unfortunateare not well endowed with the natural resources water, for example — to sustain intensive modern farming, at the expense of Eastern India, which has all of nature's bounties

except that it is very far from the national capitaloriented policy structure. Other big-ticket items in agriculture are a more than doubling of the outlay for agro-processing industries to ₹14 billion and assurances that the export of agri products would be liberalised to boost their exports

threefold to their potential

of around \$100 billion. For the Northeast, a Bamboo Mission was announced with an outlay of ₹13 billion. Two new infrastructure funds are to set up — one for fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure and another for animal husbandry infrastructure at a total outlay of ₹100 billion. Crop credit would increase by 10 per cent to ₹11 trillion and lessee farm-

ers would be facilitated to access crop credit from banks — something which they cannot do today and have, instead, to rely on private moneylenders.

The budgetary outlay for rural roads, affordable houses, toilets and electricity extension of ₹2.4 trillion will leverage five time more funds from other sources and generate work for 10 million people, as per

the Budget documents.
Big changes were also announced in healthcare. A new flagship scheme will provide in-hospital medical insurance to 100 million poor families with an insurance cover of ₹5 lakhs. Compare this with the measly cover now available of ₹30,000 only under the Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana. The outlay on health, education social protection increases by around 13 per cent over the 2017-18 spend to ₹1.4 trillion.

To boost employment in manufacturing, the government proposes to extend the existing scheme under which it meets the cost of a contribution of 12 per cent per year towards the Employees' Provident Fund contribution in the medium, small and micro enterprises to all the manufac-

turing sectors. The idea is to increase the attractiveness of employing young job seekers by reducing their cost to the employer for three years, by which time it is expected the skills they acquire will make their value addition viable

The highlights for new projects in infrastructure are that 99 smart cities have been selected with an outlay of ₹2.4 trillion, against which projects worth around 10 per cent of the outlay are ongoing and projects worth one per cent of the outlay have been

completed. The government expects to complete 9,000 km of highways in this year. Bharat Net, the fiber connectivity programme, is also proceeding apace. The Railways will spend ₹1.48 trillion on capital investments, mostly in new works in 2018-19. Six hundred railway stations are to be upgraded.

The total expenditure next year is around 10 per cent higher than the estimate for 2017-18 of ₹22.2 trillion. The nominal GDP in 2018-19 is estimated to be 11.5 per cent higher than in the current year. On the revenue side, the big increase is an estimated increase of 12 per cent in GST revenues next year by around ₹2.6 trillion to a level of ₹4.4 trillion, and ₹20,000 crores from the new capital gains tax of 10 per cent on equity sold after holding it for one year. This makes sticking to the 3.3 fiscal deficit target a bit dodgy in 2018-19.

But who knows, maybe the finance minister has some artillery hidden up his sleeve.. Disinvestment has been assessed conservatively in 2018-19 at ₹80,000 crores, against the achievement this year of ₹1 trillion. The bank recapitalisation support of ₹80,000 crores is expected to leverage new lending capacity of ₹5 trillion. But one cannot but het the feeling that some of the expenditure estimates are a bit conservative relative to the ambition embedded in the programmes.

The good news is ending 2018-19 with a fiscal deficit equal to this year's at 3.5 per cent is no big deal. But for the Narendra Modi government, which takes targets seriously, it could be a bit of a come down.

> The writer is adviser. Observer Research Foundation



Dominic Emmanuel

Worship the lights

Porty is said to be a Biblical number as many events in the Bible last for 40 days or happen after 40 days. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert or the flood on earth caused by incessant rains in the time of Noah for 40 days and nights.

The number has close connection with the Judaism that follows the Mosaic laws. Jesus Christ being a Jew and founder of Christianity, the Church continues to observe some of those

hus today February 2, is actually the 40th day after Christmas and according to then existing Jewish custom He is for the first time to the Synagogue by his parents, to ful-solemn festivals in India signifill the rituals for

the first born of the family. The Bible tells us that Mary and Joseph, belonging to the poorer section of society, "present" child Jesus in the temple with "an offering of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons". That is why February 2, among

Christians is known as the "Feast of the Presentation of the

Hence in the church where I serve now in Austria, the Christmas decorations will be removed only now, though in some other churches they have been removed after January 6, the Feast of the three wise men of East who visited Child Jesus bringing him gifts of Gold, Myrrh and Incense.

long with this, an addi-Ational reason for the importance of February 2 is related to the then Jewish custom was that Mary, the mother

of Jesus too could leave her home and visit the Synagogue only after 40 days after giving birth to Jesus.
One of the important features

of the liturgical celebration of today's feast in churches is a candle light procession. Among the different names and

descriptions given to Jesus, He is also considered as the "Light of the World". The candle light procession

thus signifies that Jesus as Saviour of the World came to overcome the darkness of sin by being the Light to a sinful

ight has significance also in other religions. Diwali

fies again the victory of good over evil. While the little earthen oil lamps — "diyas" lighten up the whole surroundings, similar lit earthen lamps are also used in homes and temples durworship ing across the country.

Ås God's creatures each of us too carries within us His light. Let us then become aware that we too carry a responsibility using the light emanating from the lamps of our life to drive away the darkness of sin from our own life.

In doing so we play an important role to get rid of the evil of sin and darkness around us resulting in making ourselves and others worthy of being "presentable" in the House of God.

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comes from the fiscal deficit target for 2018-19 set at 3.3 per cent of GDP. This re-establishes the declining trend for fiscal deficit towards the magic number of three per cent of GDP, which has eluded us so far.

More reassurance

ACROSS

Falafel holders Piano technician 11 Start of a countdown

14 Food-spoiling bacterium 15 "Remember the _ 16 Party card game

17 "Tell me the rumors are 19 Kook 20 Revolutionary

Guevara 21 Some HDTVs 22 Glowing part of a fire 24 Comprehensive, as a

report 27 Put an end to 28 2000 Kevin Spacey/Helen Hunt

32 Sounding congested 35 Smash into 36 Leave rolling

in the aisles 37 Approximation: Abbr.

38 Oscar-nominated

'The Lord of the Rings"

43 Apple tablet

45 Dog doc 46 Helped out

"Once upon a

53 Long to have

58 Sweetie pie

67 Sign on a

61 Get older 62 Imp

66 California's Big _

68 Cowboys' home

69 D.D.E.'predecessor 70 Cheese with holes

71 Actress Winona of

"Stranger Things"

boardinghouse window

Enya song from 2001's

42 Was out to lunch?

48 Offer effusive praise

52 Poe poem that starts

midnight dreary," with

57 Capital of Oregon

THE NYT CROSSWORD

DOWN 1 Actor Joe of "My Cousin

2 Corporate raider Carl 3 Trifled (with) 4 Three-time

Frazier foe 5 Take a load off Chinese martial art Neighbor of the radius 8 Yanks: New York :: _

Washington 9 Letters on an ambulance

10 One whose work is on the house? 11 Popular sandwich order

12 Make a list of 13 Do, re or mi 18 Pretentiously showy 23 Clean Air Act and others

25 Clean Air Act org. 26 It may be read by a psychic 27 Grooming implement 29 Travis of country music 30 Liposuction target 31 Not naturally red-haired, e.g. 32 Singer Diamond or Young

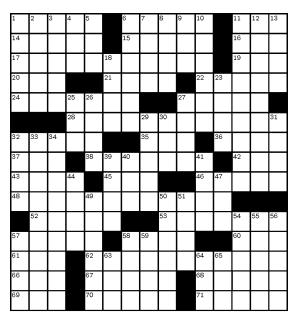
33 Spears at the dinner table 34 "Keep your eyes open!" 39 Stratford-upon-

40 Hankering 41 Per person 44 Drop precipitously 47 D.D.E., familiarly 50 Bad ones are hard to break 51 Rapper-turned-TV actor 54 Wicked one 55 ____ orange 56 Harder to find 57 Pageant wrap 58 Indonesian tourist destination

59 Naval

63 Like a pitch between the ankles 64 "It's f-f-freezing!"





Technomics

360-degree camera in a stainless body



Oncam has launched the 360-degree camera which seems to be the first and only surveillance camera to receive the NSF mark in the 'Special Purpose Food **Equipment and Devices**' category. Oncam's Evolution Stainless Steel camera boasts of an IP69K rating against weather, water, and dust, as well as an IK10 rating against vandalism. The company claims that this camera can be washed with high-pressure jets of more than 1,000psi at up to 80 degrees Celsius, enabling it to withstand demanding environments. The system is ideal for surveillance applications in diverse areas like food processing facilities, industrial and chemical plants, vehicle wash stations, and ports and marine applications, amongst others. With an outer casing manufactured from marine-grade stainless steel 316, its resistance to corrosion caused by salt spray makes it ideally suited for use in harsh environments.

Your laptop can rest in peace



Portronics, a company wellknown for its power banks, portable speakers, scanners, mobile, laptop and computer accessories in India, has introduced a new lightweight, portable and foldable laptop stand called 'My Buddy Lite'. It is the latest addition to the My Buddy series of laptop stands. The new stand is designed keeping ergonomics for the user in mind. The stand is designedto give the users' back and wrist a relaxed angle when working, reduc ing stress, and additionally provides the required rest while working. It's made from nylon, steel and silica rubber, giving the stand additional strength and also making it rough and tough. The stand is convenient to carry around as it is foldable and comes with two adjustable angles. It is estimated to take the weight of regular to large laptops of up to 4Kgs/17-inch displays. My Buddy Lite is available for a price of 1,099.

PTron Sonor BT speaker launched



PTron launched 'Sonor', a Bluetooth mini speaker with subwoofer sound effect. This portable speaker connects to any smart device or tablet. It features a scratch and fingerprint stain resistant metallic body, the speaker also claims to feature 360-degree surround sound with a subwoofer effect. It is compatible with TF cards and 3.5mm AUX interface for external media players. Connectivity options include Bluetooth v3.0 which range up to 10m from the paired source. It is equipped with a 4-ohm 3W speaker, that boasts of a frequency range between 40Hz and 18kHz. The speaker is powered by 1000mAh rechargeable Li-ion battery and the company claims the speaker's playback time to be up to 6 hours. The company will also be

launching a few more

current quarter. The

Bluetooth speakers in the

Sonor is priced at '999.

Porn ransomware utilises scareware tactics

2017's major malware attacks rode on porn

DC CORRESPONDENT

always sells advertising fact. However, in cyberspace, it serves not only as a method for securing sales but also as a tool for malicious activity. This became obvious when Kaspersky Lab experts analysed how cybercriminals used adult content for their activities. It turns out that it was the most active threat in the mobile landscape. During the course of the research, Kaspersky Lab specialists identified 23 amilies of malware that ase porn content to hide their real functionality.

The research showed that when downloading an unverified or thirdparty porn app, users are at greatest risk of being infected with so-called 'clickers'. Upon infection, this malware starts to click through ad-links or try to subscribe the user to a WAPsubscription in order to drain their pre-paid mobile credit. The distribution of users who encountered different types of malware dis-guised as adult content

applications. Banking Trojans disguised as porn video players are the second most widespread type of porn-powered malware. This is followed by root-

ing malware and ransomware. The latter often comes in the form of legitimate applications for known porn websites. In many cases, porn ransomware utilises scareware tactics: it locks the device screen and shows a message stating that illegal con-tent (usually child porn) has been detected on the device, and the device has therefore been locked. In order to unlock the device, the victim has to pay a ran-som. This message usually comes with screen-shots from actual child

porn videos. The target audience of this app is obviously US-based users. "Although we can't say that pornthemed mobile applications are technically very different to those that do not use activities, there are a few specifics when it comes to attacks with porn-powmalicious applications. victim who has compromised with an adult contentenabled malicious program might think twice before reporting the incident, simply because the very fact that they were trying to

d porn content viewed critically. find content Therefore, from the attacker's perspective, such a person is a much more convenient victim. This is one of the reasons why we see so many attacks with porn malware. The other one is much simpler people are consuming ever more content via mobile. This includes adult content as well,"

security expert at Kaspersky Lab. To prevent any mal-

said Roman Unuchek, a



comes to adult content, it is strongly advised to follow these recommendations:

Use only trusted websites when it comes to adult content. Cybercriminals often set up fake porn sites for single purpose infecting victims with malware.

Do not install Android

applications unknown sources, even you access to the content you were looking for. Instead, use official

> time you purchase it. Use reliable internet security solution capable of protect-

X-mini Xoundbar: Captivating speaker in a compact package

ANKITA GARG

X-Mini, a brand unknown to the Indian continent, is well-known for audio products in Singapore, and the company recently released the Xoundbar into India. The Xoundbar is a compact, classy-looking wireless speaker, which is smaller than a compact spectacle case and weighs just 128g. Beneficial for short travels, camping or trekking trips, this little sound box can entertain you along with a small crowd with great ease. Built with a rugged plastic housing and metal grille around, the BT speaker is IPX4 certified for regular splashes and spills. The X-mini Xoundbar

features Bluetooth v4.2, along with AVRCP, but lacks an AUX input, which could be ignored in today's world. The speaker packs a fairly impressive sound in a tiny little package; however, the audio quality would depend on the



genre and volume levels. The speaker pumps a total output of 6W (3Wx2).

Though tiny speakers cannot deliver deep bass, Xoundbar still manages to do a fair job in delivering a decent amount of low-frequency audio. The mids and highs are pretty much detailed too. And if you wish, you can pair two Xoundbars together for a larger audience.

Apart from music, the speaker works best for watching movies on your laptop, smartphone or tablet. A built-in microphone also helps you answer phone calls, but

we found the audio was a tad distorted and muffled

on the other end. The speaker is said to offer up to 5 hours of continuous music playback — a claim that it manages to achieve, while the tiny 700mAh internal battery takes around 2.5 hours to juice up completely, which was a bit of a put-off.

Overall, if you are looking for a highly portable speaker that can deliver a decent bass and good highs, the X-mini Xoundbar is a great option to consider at a price of ₹3,790.

HARLEY DAVIDSON PLANS TO RIDE ELECTRIC BIKES IN 2019

the world in 2014 with its LiveWire electric motorcycle concept.
Apart from its killer
street-fighter looks,
especially with its redrim wheels, the
LiveWire was claimed
to go a maximum of 50
miles and would hit

100Km/h in 4 seconds. Of course, in 2019, the motorcycle could the motorcycle could utilise more efficient and powerful batteries than the one used in the present concept model. This could give it faster acceleration figures and greater mileage

If you are wondering where else have you seen this bike apart from Harley's official press releases, do pay attention to a specific scene in Avengers: Age of Ultron. The Black Widow jumps out of the plane and rides a Harley in traffic.



IPHONE 6S TO GET THE 'MADE IN INDIA' TAG

Apple's Taiwanese conmanufacturer Wistron is close to finalising a land deal in India's tech hub of Bengaluru and the firm is likely to invest about \$157 million to develop the site, two government officials told Reuters. ICT Service Management Solutions, Wistron's unit assembles Apple's low cost iPhone SE in India, has been scouting for some 100 acres in and around Bengaluru, capital of the southern Indian state Karnataka, said the sources, which are familiar with the matter but asked not to be named as they are not authorised to publicly

discuss the plans.

Apple and Wistron declined requests for comment. Some of Wistron's global executives and it's India's head met with the industries minister of Karnataka and a deal on the land lease may be struck in a few weeks, said one of the officials. A government body that deals with investment proposals did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Wistron is likely to this land to set up new assembly lines for Apple, the sources said. — *Reuters*

Fingerprints on Lenovo laptops found vulnerable

DC CORRESPONDENT

Lenovo has acknowledged that its Fingerprint Manager Pro can be hacked and the company is looking into it. This vulnerability has been identified by the company for its Windows 7, 8 and 8.1 and not Windows 10. This breach allows hackers to access the sensitive data tials and passwords. The sites using fingerprint on Windows version company says Fingerprint recognition. This sensiprior to Windows 10.



Manager Pro is a utility for Windows 7, 8 and 8.1 that allows users to log the users, including into their PCs or authenti-Windows' login creden- cate to configured web- patch is only required

tive data on these PCs is currently using a weak algorithm, which contains a hard-coded password and is vulnerable to backers. The effected devices

include models of ThinkPad L560, P40 Yoga, X1 Carbon (Type 20A7, 20A8) and many others The company is releasing a patch for now and users neea to know that

Android phones to be inspired by rival X

AMRITANSHU

OnePlus Recently, rolled out their Oxygen OS Open Beta 3 for the OnePlus 5 and OnePlus 5T. Out of various bug fixes for various issues and other new Oreo features, OnePlus has included a new gesture-based navigation system for its latest flagships. The new gestures may not be as unique and different as the Apple iPhone X, but completely replace the navigation bar at the bottom of the OnePlus phones. Not long ago, Xiaomi also expressed

similar plans for their narrow-bezel smartphones with MIUI 9 Beta versions. Does this mark the start of button's death on a

smartphone? Navigation buttons have been a part of the

debate since the touchscreen became a reality on mobile phones. Android in its previous iterations offered a choice of minimum

f o u r buttons, which later trickled down to the popular three — Back, Home and App Switcher. Since then, they have been an indispensable part of

all Android phones, regardless of their make. An Android user needs these to perform any operation on the phone. Android's navigation buttons have either been existing as capacitive keys or as on-screen but-

our Website:

<u>MISSING</u>

Suresh 32/17/S/o Rajan, Sandinilayam House, Samrayipetty, Desam, Udumalpet, Tamilnadu was missing from his wifehouse since 2016. A case was registered at Mala Police Station as crime 1180/17 u/s 57 of KP act for this matter. If any information received in this matter please contact the phone number given below or nearest Police

- 9497987142 1. Police Inspector, Mala 2. Dy. Supdt. of Police, Chalakudy - 9497962589

F2/38/2018/I & PRD

Brihan Mumbai **Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking**



e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items. Bid Closing Date 20/02/2018 for Item (1) Comp. S & M Contract for ETI Machine for 1 year,

Bid Closing Date 12/02/2018 for Item Re-invited e-Tender (3rd Call) (2) Tr. No. 36495 - MCB of Various Ratings.

Note: For more details, log on to website www.bestetender.com

CORRIGENDUM e-Tender published on 19/01/2018 vide

Ref. No. PRO/AAM(M)/199/2018 (3) Tr. No. 36084 - Appointment of Turnkey Contractor for Execution of Substation & Cable Work.

Sub.: Clarification to Queries received from the bidders Tenderers are hereby requested to note the CORRIGENDUM on our website www.bestetender.com and accordingly upload their revised Bids. Also, please note that tender is extended and the revised Bid end date is now 08/02/2018.

PRO/AAM(M)/210/2018 **GENERAL MANAGER**

For viewing & payment of BEST electricity bills, use miBEST mobile app.

TENDERS / NOTICES

😰 PARADIP PORT TRUST e-TENDER NOTICE

Name of work: "Construction, supply delivery, erection, commissioning trial running and operation & maintenance of sewerage treatment plant of capacity 2.00 MLD in Bhimabhoi, Paradeep, Odisha" Estimated cost: Rs.8,38,89,844/-. Last Date & time of submission: 14.02.2018 upto 13:00 Hrs. For details please refe

https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app PPT/PR/726/17-18 Dt- 31.01.2018

Executive Engineer, PHD (M

3. Police Sub. Inspector, Mala 4. Police Station, Mala

- 9497980546 - 0480 2695005

votice along with bid document is available on NHAI's website http://etend ast date for submission of completed e-bid is 23-02-2018 upto 11.00 hrs.

H.M. Nagyi, CGM (T)
Regional Officer, Cheng BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED Online e- tenders in prescribed form is invited for the following work: Tender Reference SI.No. **Description of Work** No. HAL/HD/ Value in Rs. Civil works for Widening of east side road 63.87 CE/C/T/17-18/39

National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways) Regional Office, Chennai, 3rd Floor, 'Sri Tower', DP-34(SP), Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032. Tel: 044-22252635 Fax: 044-22252636 E-mail: rochennai@nhai.or.

Section

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

used for RLSU antenna testing facility. Lakhs Service contract for Engagement of Driver 227,90 MT/MT/17-18/04 and carpenters on contract basis in HAL, Lakhs Hyderabad For full details, interested contractors / agencies are requested to visit Websit www.hal-india.com under the "link" → Tenders → Hyderabad Division → Tender Tender Notice No. (as above) under free view. All future corrigenda shall be updated

nly on the above website and no separate press advertisement will be issued CM(Civil)-HOD, Hyderabad Division

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு நாகப்பட்டினம் நகராட்சி 3 வது ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி அறிவிப்பு நாள் : 30.01.2018

Smartphones set to become more expensive this year

DC CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has presented the new budget for the financial year 2018-2019 at the Lok Sabha today. In the

midst of all the other major financial and tax reforms, the government has proposed to raise the customs dutv on mobile phones from 15 per cent to 20 per cent, thus making mobile

phones more expensive than

What this means for the technology industry is that smartphone prices are going to be bumped up considerably by next month when the new budget laws are exercised. However, if you were planning

to get yourself a new smartphone, then don't be nervous yet. The new budget reform will make only those smartphones more expensive that come with customs duty on them, i.e. all smartphones that are imported from

> other countries will increased prices. India presently sees budget to expensive flagship

smartphones being imported mostly from China, Taiwan and a few other neighbouring countries. As for budget smartphones, a majority of them are manufactured in India. Therefore, those looking

budget smartphone needn't worry about the revised prices.

ந.க.எண்.233/2016/**இ**1 நாகப்பட்டினம் நகராட்சியில் நீர் நிலை மேம்பாட்டு திட்டத்தின் கீழ் பணி செய்வதற்கு ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் கோரல்

நாகப்பட்டினம் நகராட்சியின் அக்கரைக்குளத்தினை மேம்பாடு செய்திடும் பணியின் ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் (இரண்டு உறைகள் முறை) வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன. ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி நமூனாவினை http://tntenders.gov.in மற்றும் http://municipality.tn.gov.in/tenders என்ற இணையதள் முகவரிகளிலிருந்து இலவசமாக எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். மேலும் ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் குறித்

முமு விபாங்களும் பெறலாம். ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் தொடர்பான நேரம் மற்றும் நாள்

அ. ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி முன்கலந்தாய்வுக்கூட்டம் – 12.02.2018 காலை 11.00 மணி ஆ. ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி இறக்கம் செய்தல் – 07.02.2018 முதல்

ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி சமர்பித்தல் 21.02.2018 மாலை 3.00 மணி வண

ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி திறத்தல் 21.02.2018 மாலை 3.30 மணிக்கு

ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி பெறப்படும் நாளன்று அலுவலகத்திற்கு விடுமுறை தினமாக அறிவிக்கப்படின் அதற்கு அடுத்த வேலை நாளில் ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகள் பெறப்பட்டு திறக்கப்படும். ஆணையாளர், நாகப்பட்டினம் நகராட்சி. செ.ம.தொ.இ/ 450 /ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி/2018

IDAPPADI MUNICIPALITY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 2018-19
TENDER NOTICE
Form of contract: Item rate contract (Two cover system)

1	Engagement of 50 labours on Contract basis by Outsourcing from private service provider to Idappadi Municipality.	.00	Rs. 10,000.00	1	1 Yea	ar					
2. PM Rs.I	The bid documents can be downloaded from the website https://itenders.gov.in at free of cost. 3. Bid documents can be downloaded up to 3.0 Mon 2.8.02.2018. Online submission of tender will also be accepted. 4. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value of Estimar 8.8.0.000/-6. Any additional/further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from Public Health Section of this office on all working day furning office hours. 6. Important dates.										
	1 Date and time of pre-bid meeting		16.02.2018	11.00	AM						
	2 Last date and time for downloading bid documents.		28.02.2018	03.00	PM						
	Oll and date and time for a feminal and bid document includion college as be		00 00 0040	22 22	D1.1						

4 Date and time of opening of the Technical bid.

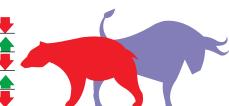
the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the sa renue. 8. Other details can be seen in the bid documents.

corporate



HOW MARKETS REACTED TO JAITLEY'S BUDGET IN 5 YEARS MARKET WATCH

> July 10, 2014 72.06 Feb 28, 2015 141.38 Feb 29, 2016 **152.30** Feb 1, 2017 485.68 Feb 1, 2018 **58.36**



₹6,21,000cr

COLLECTED THROUGH CORPORATION TAX



It is progre- LA ssive, balanced forward

looking with a well-defined focus on Digital India. Ola is already a partner to some of the initiatives. Allocation of ₹3,073 crore towards Digital India is a significant leg-up. - BHAVISH AGGARWAL.

Co-founder & CEO, Ola Rationalisation of LTCG as expected

has arrived, though negative on sentiments but robust equity returns will absorb this 10% if corporate earnings growth happen as expected.

> - KAMLESH RAO, MD & CEO, Kotak

The FM has provided a panoptic flavor to the FY19 Union

Budget. The admirable 'All-in' Budget has delivered beyond expectations in a bid to reinvigorate growth that is sustainable and equitable, leveraging fully on the available fiscal space.

> RANA KAPOOR, MD & CEO, Yes Bank

The steps [13] taken to strengthen the presence of Fintech in

the MSME space and the plans for Smart Cities shows that we are on our way to achieving our goal of being a \$1tr digital economy by 2025.

> - C. P. GURNANI, MD & CEO, TechM

MORE RELIEF FOR MSMES

Tax cut to benefit 99% of tax filing companies, says Jaitley

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday announced a slew of measures for the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSME) hit by note ban and GST, including a cut in corporate tax rate to 25 per cent for businesses with a turnover of up to ₹250 crore and setting a target of ₹3 lakh crore for lending under the MUDRA scheme in 2018-19.

MSME are a major source of employment in the country and these measures are expected to boost jobs generation.

Mr Jaitley said that the cut in corporate tax will benefit the entire class of micro, small and medium enterprises accounts for almost 99 per cent of companies filing their tax returns.

The estimate of revenue forgone due to this measure is ₹7,000 crores during the financial year 2018-19. After this, out of about 7 lakh companies filing returns, about 7,000 companies which file returns of income and whose turnover is above ₹250 crores will remain in 30 per cent slab.

"The lower corporate income tax rate for 99 percent of the companies will leave them with higher investible surplus which in turn will create

more jobs," he said.

Mr Jaitley proposed to set a target of ₹3 lakh crore for lending under MUDRA for FY19.

"MUDRA Yojana launched in April, 2015 has led to sanction of ₹4.6 lakh crore in credit from 10.38 crore MUDRA loans. 76 per cent of loan accounts are of women and more than 50 per cent belong to SCs, STs and OBCs," Mr Jaitley said.

He announced the government will contribute 12 per cent of the wages the new employees in the EPF for all the sectors for next three years. Also, the facility of fixed term employment extended to all sectors.

	BUDGET PROJECTIONS OVER THE YEAR											
	Capital		Revenu	pts	Fiscal deficit							
	'Good' expenditure as it creates assets that have a multiplier effect the higher, the better				What the government earns from various taxes and levies. The higher, the better				The deficit in the government's books, which it falls by borrowing The lower, the better			
	Below 95%	95% to 100%	Above 100%		Below 95%	95% 100		Above 100%	Below 95%		% to 0%	Above 100%
3	How good w its first projections		What did it ultimately manage?		How good its first projection		ult	nat did it timately anage?	How goo its fi project	rst	ult	nat did it timately anage?
	RE as % of BE		ctuals as % of BE		RE as of BE			cuals as of BE	RE as			tuals as of BE
2009 - 10 UPA	93		91		94			93	10	3		104
2010 - 11 UPA	109		104		115			116	10	5		98
2011 - 12 UPA	98		99		97			95	12	6		125
2012 - 13 UPA	82		81		93			94	10	1		95
2013 - 14 UPA	83		82		97			96	97	7		93

95

106

103

Inflation worries shoot up on high spending promise

105

113

New Delhi, Feb. 1: The annual budget could push up inflation and prompt the central bank to raise interest rates sooner, analysts said on Thursday, raising the probability of a scenario that could hurt the nascent economic recovery.

2014 - 15 NDA

2015 - 16 NDA

2016 - 17 NDA

Mr Jaitley raised the government spending for rural areas and support to farmers, while slowing the pace of fiscal consolidation.

Traders and analysts said those moves could add to inflationary pressures at a time when retail inflation was at a 17-month high

That would make the RBI more cautious when it announces the monetary policy review on Wednesday next week, they said. "The probability of rate

hikes in the next fiscal year

has gone up materially,'

said A. Prasanna, economist at ICICI Securities pridealership mary Mumbai.

A cautious stance at the RBI would increase the probability of interest rate increases in the coming fiscal year. That in turn could raise tensions between the government and the RBI.

which has resisted pressures for deep rate cuts to boost growth as it worried

93

105

NA

about increasing inflation.
Analysts said while the
RBI is expected to keep interest rates on hold next week, the budget could toughen the central bank's tone. They said the government's decision to increase the minimum support price guarantee to farmers, in particular, is likely to have direct inflationary impact.

In the budget, the government promised farmers to ouy their crops at 1.5 times the cost of production, a major shift in approach after keeping the average minimum support price increase in low single digits over the past three years.

GROWTH LIKELY TO TOUCH 7.5% IN H2FY18

96

96

96

96

100

New Delhi, Feb. 1: Arun Jaitley said on Thursday that India is expected to register a growth rate of 7.2-7.5 per cent in the second half of the current fiscal and is on way to becoming the 5th largest economy of the world.

While unveiling the Budget 2018-19, he said, India has grown on an average of 7.5 per cent in the first three years of the current government and has become a \$2.5 trillion economy.

We hope to grow at 7.2 to 7.5 per cent in the second half of the curren fiscal," Jaitley said in the Lok Sabha.

India has already become 7th largest economy of the world, he said, adding that it is expected to become 5th largest economy soon.
As per the CSO estimate

Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal, ending March 31. For 2018-19, the econo-

my is likely to grow at 7-7.5 per cent as per the Economic Survey tabled in Parliament earlier this

GDP growth in first quarter of 2017-18 had moderated to 5.7 per cent, the lowest in the three years. In the second quarter, it recovered to 6.3 per

AS PER the CSO estimate the economy is expected to grow at 6.5% in FY18

GDP GROWTH in the first quarter of financial year 2017-18 had moderated to 5.7%

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNION FINANCE minister Arun Jaitley admitted that the fiscal deficit will over- shoot to 3.5% per cent of the GDP in FY18 from the target of 3.2% set in last year's budget.
- FISCAL DEFICIT target for FY19 has been set at 3.3% as against the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act target of 3%
- MR JAITLEY also revised the revenue deficit target for FY18 from 1.9% to 2.6%

Sensex dips on LTCG's return

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, FEB. 1

The budget turned out to be a big dampener for equity market investors as it reintroduced the long-term capital gain (LTCG) tax on gains exceeding ₹1 lakh at the rate of 10 per cent with-out allowing the benefits of any indexation. It has also imposed a 10 per cent tax on income distributed by mutual fund equity schemes to provide a level playing field across growth oriented funds and dividend distributing funds. However to avoid any

knee-jerk reaction in the market, finance minister clarified that all gains generated upto January 31, 2018 would be grandfa-thered. While the proposals are sentimentally negative and could impact fresh flows in the short term till investors recalibrate their investment strategies, experts said the broader momentum in the market would continue as the expected return from the equity market is still higher as compared to other asset classes like gold and real estate.

"Over a three year investment period, this makes equity taxation worse than that on debt where LTCG tax at 10 per cent is applicable, but with inflation indexation. This in itself may not be enough to stem the flow of domestic funds into equity markets — as expected equity returns are still high," said analysts at Bank of America Merill Lynch.

After witnessing a steep fall in the intra-day trade, the equity markets staged a smart recovery during the second half of the trading session with FPIs

Kunal Bajaj, CEO and founder of Clearfunds.com, said that the move has ensured that there is no arbitrage between dividend and growth schemes. Since investors are approaching mutual fund schemes with a long-term perspective, he believes that the tax proposal would not upset the steady flow of funds from small investors.

pumping in ₹1,099.78 crore The Nifty ended the day at 11,016.90, down 10.80 points or 0.10 per cent while the Sensex closed the session at 35,906.66, dropping 58.36 points or 0.16 per cent. With regards to dividends

on equity funds, which were hitherto, tax free now attracting a 10 per cent dividend distribution tax, fund managers are expecting a slight churn in portfolio in favour of growth oriented schemes. "This move may impact flows into funds where investors orimarily entering with the expectation of regular dividends. Infact dividend schemes are now slightly disadvantaged as opposed to growth schemes as LTCG below ₹1 lakh is exempt from tax," said Kaustubh Belapurkar, director manager Morningstar research. Investment Adviser India.

Centre raises divestment target by 10% for FY19

FC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

Even though the government for the first time in seven years completed the disinvestment target in FY18, it very moderately

budget estimates. I am

assuming receipts of $\[\]$ 1,00,000 crore in 2017-18," Jaitley said while presenting Union Budget. 2018.

investment target of ₹72,500 crore in the current crore from strategic disinvestment and ₹11,000 crore companies.

disinvestment target on the back of multiple deals like an agreement with ONGC for the strategic sale of its 51.11 percent equity shareholding in HPCL at a con-

sideration of ₹36,915 crore.

As the government's ETF Bharat-22 raised ₹14,500 crore, the finance ministry will continue to come up with more such offers including debt ETF in

3 insurance cos to be merged

New Delhi, Feb. 1: As part of the Centre's divestment plans, finance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday proposed to merge three general insurance firms into one and list that entity on bourses.

Mr Jaitley said, "Three public sector general insurance companies — National Insurance, United India Assurance and Oriental India Insurance Company — will be merged into a single insurance company and be subse-

quently listed.' The merger and subse-

quent listing is part of the

drive through stake sale. Experts see this proposal as a positive development. with the estimated size of the merged entity estimated to be ₹40,000 crore.

"It will be a profitable move and with an estimated size of around ₹40,000 crore, capacity of the entity will be enhanced and there won't be any need to depend upon reinsurance business to generate revenues as the three entities, based on their locations, are engaged into a host of Roy, PwC India.

COMPUTER GLITCHES HALT ROLLOUT OF E-WAY BILL

New Delhi, Feb. 1: The government on Thursday deferred implementation of requirement to carry e-permits for interstate transportation of goods following technical glitches.

GST provision requiring transporters to carry an electronic waybill or e-way bill when moving goods between states was to be implemented from today to check rampant tax evasion.

"In view of difficulties faced by the trade in generating e-way bill due to

initial technological glitches, it has been decided to extend the trial phase for genera-tion of e-way bill, both for inter and intra state movement of goods. It will be applicable from a date to be notified," the CBEC tweeted.

After implementation of the GST from July 1, the requirement of carrying e-way bill was postponed pending IT network readiness. GSTN had been conducting trial runs for the system since Jan. 17. — *PTI*

raised the target by over 10 per cent in the FY19 budget. The Centre has exceeded the disinvestment target of 2017-2018 and is expected to receive about ₹1 lakh crore.

"2017-18 budget estimates for disinvestment were pegged at the highest ever level of ₹72,500 crore. We have already exceeded the

The Centre had set a dis-

financial year by sale of equity in state-owned companies, including strategic sale. The target included ₹46,500 crore as disinvestment of central public sector enterprises, ₹15,000 from listing of insurance

This is the first time in seven years that the gov-

The government has approved listing of 14 CPSEs, including two insurance companies, on the domestic bourses.

FY19, he said.

ACCOUNTING ILLUSIONS IN BUDGET



Founding member,

his budget is the last full budget by the BJP before the polls. It is, like all budgets, a statement of political intent. This time, the focus is to clearly do something for the farm sector and the economically weaker section of the population.

There is a renewed big bag announcement to provide health cover for up to ₹5 lakh per family, that would cover more than 10 crore families.

The second big intent is to provide better income to the farmer by providing a "minimum support price" that is related to the cost of production. Thus, the biggest segments are sought to be

addressed by these two big announcements.

As far as budgets go, it is a passable budget as it seeks to balance political and fiscal balance. The mathematics of the budget seem to be driven by an intent to be fiscally prudent.

The projected fiscal deficit is not a big number and should not bother us. Everything seems to balance (I have not read the fine print at the point of writing this). However, one thing that bothers me is the long term fiscal impact of pro-viding universal health cover as well as farm produce price

supports. One thing that is clear is that the government is exhausting

Clearly too much money is needed and there is not enough

all sources to raise revenue.

revenue generation. There is no relief to the white collar salaried. There is a tax relief for the MSME, as the lower tax rate of 25% is now extended to companies with turnover of up to ₹250 crore, as against the earlier limit of ₹50 crore. Big business is disappointed. In fact the education 'cess' on income tax has been raised from three to four per cent, pushing the effective marginal rate to 34%

The government now is a partner in the money we make from stocks. They already taxed short term gains, now their reach extends to long term gains also. Governments are supposed to hold on to their promises. STT was introduced as an alternate to all types of capital gains. The government seems to be desperate to tax us more and more. There is some tokenism to senior citizens.

Infrastructure spend is big like in earlier budgets. Big announcements of new airports (56 of them), food processing parks, more roads, ambitious targets for houses for poor, concessions for women etc also flashed.

Clearly, trying to address every segment.

Budget making is a political exercise. Trying to please all constituents is not possible.

Revenues are far below what is spent. Unfortunately, asset sales (disinvestment, auction of natural resources etc) are like selling family silver to put a meal on the table. No one seems to mind. One day all the silver will be gone. But then, that is the problem that will be inher-

ited by the future generation. However, no economist or anyone seems to be bothered. Clearly this is unaccountable accounting.

Each succeeding government tries to win votes by giving away more and more things.

And this also establishes a sense of 'entitlement' among the public that they have a right to get things free.



One thing that bothers me is the long term fiscal impact of providing universal health cover as well as farm produce price supports.

> R. BALAKRISHNAN, Founding member,

DECCAN CHRONICLE • FRIDAY • 2 FEBRUARY 2018 • CHENNAI



>> **SKILLING** I With automation and robotics making manual labour redundant, the skill development played key role in enhancing skills of semi-skilled workers. The Centre spent ₹1,177 crore in FY15, which was doubled every year till last year. This year skilling got ₹1000 crore more

₹12,169cr

TOWARDS THE URBAN REJUVENATION MISSION



The extension of corporate tax rate of 25% to



irrespective of any sector. - R. PURAVANKARA, MD. Puravankara

Limited

will have a positive

of corporate India

impact on the health

The FM providing more tax



citizens experiencing rising inflationary costs is a step in the right direction. And the introduction of a LTCG Tax of 10% should be digested easily given the buoyancy.

- PREETHA REDDY, Vice-chairman, Apollo Hospitals

The corporate tax reduction is a positive move.

 NIKUNJ GHODAWAT, CFO, CleanMax Solar



HIGHLIGHTS

INVESTORS WILL **HAVE** to pay 10 per cent tax on distributed income from equity-oriented mutual funds, as per the Budget proposals.

• IT IS PROPOSED to extend the benefit of exemption for withdrawal up to 40% from National **Pension System Trust** to all subscribers and not only to employees.

Fiscal deficit will overshoot to 3.5%: FM

3.2 per cent target set last year - Jaitley has failed 1st time to achieve target set in Budget

PAWAN BALI

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday admitted that fiscal deficit would overshoot to 3.5 per cent of the GDP in 2017-18. A target of 3.2 per cent was set in the last year's Budget.

This is the first time that Mr Jaitley has failed to achieve a fiscal deficit target set in the

The fiscal deficit target for 2018-19 has been set at 3.3 per cent for 2018-19 as against the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act target for 2018-19 are sent The deficit. get of 3 per cent. The deficit was at 3.5 per cent in 2016-17. The difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government is termed

The finance minister said ernment

government will be receiving GST revenues only for 11 months, instead of 12 months. This, he said will have fiscal effect. "There has also been some shortfall in non-tax revenues on account of certain developments, including deferment of spectrum auc-tion. A part of this shortfall has been made up through higher direct tax revenues and bigger disinvestment recei-pts," said the finance

minister. However, Mr Jaitley defended his track record saying that when the NDA government assumed office in May 2014, the fiscal deficit was running at very high levels. "The fiscal deficit for 2013-14 was 4.4 per cent of GDP. The Prime Minister and the govMr Jaitley said the government has also accepted the recommendation to use fiscal deficit target as the key operational parameter. Necessary amendment proposals are included in the Finance Bill, he said.

attached utmost priority to prudent fiscal management and controlling fiscal deficit," he said

Mr Jaitley pointed out that the NDA government embarked on the path of consistent fiscal reduction and consolidation in 2014.

'Fiscal deficit was brought down to 4.1 per cent in 2014-15 to 3.9 per cent in 2015-16, and

to 3.5 per cent in 2016-17," said the finance minister. He said that in order to impart 'unquestionable credibility' to the government's commit-ment to the revised fiscal glide path, "I am proposing to accept key recommendations of the Fiscal Reform and Budget Management Committee relating to adoption of the debt rule and to

ment's debt to GDP ratio to 40 per cent."

Mr Jaitley said the government has also accepted the recommendation to use fiscal deficit target as the key operational parameter. Necessary amendment proposals are

bring down Central govern-

included in the Finance Bill, he said. Chief economist Abheek Barua, HDFC Bank, said that

a modest slippage in the fiscal deficit this year and the deviation from earlier outlined target of 3 per cent would seem fair and sensible. "But given the current nervousness in the bond market, perhaps a more aggressive fiscal consolidation was required, he said.

Principal economist Aditi Nayar, rating agency ICRA, said that the revised estimate for the revenue deficit for FY2018 is sharply higher than the budgeted level, which is a

cause for concern.
"Moreover, the capital expenditure for FY2018 has been revised downward by 364 billion, entailing a 4 per cent contraction over the level for FY2017 and a concomitant worsening of the quality of expenditure and the fiscal deficit," she added.

IMPORTED ITEMS SET TO

BECOME CHEAP

Solar

tem-

pered

glass

or solar

tempered glass used for manu-facture solar

panels/modules

Raw materials, parts

or accessories

Select capital goods and

electronics

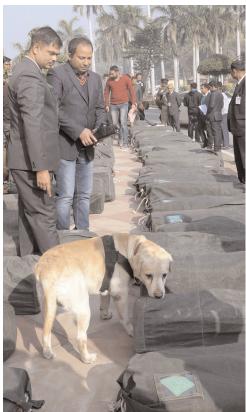
ear motion guides

such as ball

screws and lin-

making

cashew nuts



Security personnel with a sniffer dog inspect the bundles containing the copies of Union Budget 2018-19 before being carried to Lok Sabha for the Budget Session at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday.

– SONDEEP SHANKAR ■ ₹80K-cr disinvestment target

3 public sector insurance firms to be merged

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

The Centre has set a disinvestment target of ₹80,000 crore for 2018-19 after achieving record proceeds of ₹1 lakh crore in 2017-18. In 2017-18, Mr Jaitley had set a target of rais-

ing ₹72,500 crore. "2017-18 Budget estimates for disinvestment were pegged at the highest ever level of ₹72,500 crore. I am happy to inform the House that we have already exceeded the Budget estimates. I am assuming receipts of ₹1,00,000 crore in 2017-18," said Mr Jaitley.

he said the government has approved listing of 14 CPSEs, including two insurance companies, on the stock exchanges. Mr Jaitley said the government has also initiated the process of strategic disinvestment in 24 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). This includes

strategic privatisation of Air India. Mr Jaitley said that the process of acqui- Union finance sition of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation by the ONGC has been successfully

public sector general insurance companies National Insurance Company, United insurance Assurance companies, Company Limited and Oriental India Insurance Company Limited — will be

on the stock exchanges merged into a single insurance entity and will be subsequently listed," Mr Jaitley said.

minister Arun

Jaitley said the

government has

approved listing

of 14 CPSEs,

including two

He said the department of investment and public asset management (DIPAM) will move forward to bring in more Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), including launching a debt fund. He said that government introduced Exchange Traded Fund Bharat-22 to raise ₹14,500 crore, which was over-subscribed in all segments.

"Given the performance on the disinvest-

ment front this year, there were hopes that the government would be more ambitious in terms of setting the target for the next year — the ₹80,000-crore target for disinvestment receipts in FY19 is a bit conservative," Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry president Rashesh Shah said.

Imported items set to be costlier

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

Popular brands of smart phones like Apple iPhones and Google's Pixel could be costlier by 3-4 per cent as the government hiked Customs duty on mobile phones to 20 per cent, market watchers said after the

Presenting the Budget, finance minister Arun Jaitley said the Customs duty on phones has been raised from 15 per cent to 20 per cent and on some other parts and accessories to 15 per cent, to "intensify" domestic value addition and Make-in-India in the sector.

Customs duty on smart watches and wearables has been doubled to 20 per cent, while that on specified parts and accessories of mobile phones has gone up to 15 per cent from the current range of 7.5-10 per cent.

In order to push the government's Make in India initiative further, Mr Jaitley on Thursday hiked duties on a vast list of imported items, including mobile phones, automobiles, gold, diamond, fruit and vegetable juices, and

incentivise the domestic value addition and Make in India in some such sectors. I propose to increase customs duty on certain items," Mr Jaitley said in his Budget speech for year

Subsequently, Customs duty on completely knocked down imports of motor cars and motor cycles has gone up from 10 per cent to 15 per cent. Customs duty on completely build units imports of motor vehicles has gone up to 25 per cent from 20 per cent earlier, making them more expen-

Imported truck and bus radial tyres will become expensive, too, with a duty 15 per cent now as against 10 per cent earlier.

Likewise, mobile handsets will become costlier as customs duty has been increased from 15 per cent to 20 per cent while some of their parts and accessories will now attract duty of 15 per cent.

Similarly, imported LCD/ LED/ OLED TV panels and other parts of TVs have been charged customs duty of 15 per cent.

Truck and Bus

radial tyres

Footwear

Coloured

gemstones

Diamonds

Smart

Imitation jewellery

watches/wear-

able devices

Silk Fabrics

Popular brands of smart phones like Apple iPhones and Google's Pixel could be costlier by 3-4 per cent as the government hiked Customs duty on mobile phones to 20 per cent, market watchers said after the Budget

▶ Tricycles,

toys, dolls'

carriages, dolls,

Articles and equip-

swimming pools and

▶ Cigarette and

other lighters, candles

paddling pools

▶ Edible/vegetable

oils such as olive oil,

ment for sports or

outdoor games,

toys, puzzles of all kinds

Video game

consoles

scooters, pedal

cars, wheeled

COSTLIER Mobile tories, perfumery

Silver Gold Vegetable, fruit

phones

juices, including orange and cranberry

Sunglasses Miscellaneous food preparations other than soya protein

Perfumes and toilet waters Sunscreen, suntan, manicure,

pedicure prepara-



powders; dental Pre-shave, shav-

ing or after-shave preparations, Deodorants, bath

LCD/ LED TV panels Furniture Mattresses **Lamps** Wrist watches,

pocket watches,



groundnut oil preparations, depila-

■ Aviation ministry allocation hiked, pegged at ₹6,602cr New initiative to expand airport capacity

Govt officially announces it intends to privatise Air India

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

The government has officially announced that it intends to privatise national carrier Air India. The government has so far been maintaining that it is yet to decide the quantum of disinvestment of its stake in the national carrier in which it owns 100 per cent stake. The words "strategic privatisation" were used for Air India by finance minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget speech. This obviously indicates that at least a majority 51 per cent stake in Air India will be sold by the government to private players.
The government in its Budget speech also mentioned a new initiative -

NABH Nirman — wherein it proposes to expand India's airport capacity "by more than five times to handle a billion trips a year". In the wake of the government's for the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) or Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (Udan) — that is helping put even remote areas in the country on the aviation map and in which fares for some of the seats on flights are subsidised by the government, Mr. Jaitley said, "Even ▶ The allocation for the civil aviation ministry for 2018-19 has also been hiked steeply and pegged at ₹6,602 crore, up from iust ₹2.710 crore in the revised Budget estimates for 2017-18

pals' (slippers) are travelling by 'hawaii jahaz' (aircraft)" The allocation for the civil aviation ministry for 2018-19 has also been hiked steeply and pegged at ₹6,602 crore, up

those who wear 'hawaii chap-

revised Budget estimates for 2017-18. Of this amount, ₹4,469 crore has been earmarked for "purchase of two new aircraft for special extra section flight operations", seen to be a reference for VVIP flights. The finance minister also announced that "for promoting tourism and emergency medical care, the government will make necessary framework for encouraging investment in sea plane activities'

On Air India, Mr Jaitlev said, "The government has also initiated the process of strategic disinvestment in 24 from just ₹2,710 crore in the CPSEs. This includes strate-

gic privatisation of Air annum and our airline com-India." Budget documents panica placed Budget documents show that the budgetary sup-port allocated to Air India in 2018-19 as part of investment in public enterprises is ₹650 crore, down from ₹1,800 crore in the revised Budget for 2017-18. The separate capital expenditure support for the turnaround plan of Air India has also been earmarked as ₹650 crore, again down from ₹1,800 crore in the revised Budget estimate for 2017-18.

In his Budget speech, finance minister Jaitley said, 'In the last three years, the domestic air passenger traffic grew at 18 per cent per

than 900 aircraft. Regional Connectivity Scheme of Udan, initiated by the government last year, shall connect 56 unserved airports and 31 unserved helipads across the country. Operations have already started at 16 such airports. Airport Authority of Îndia (AAÎ) has 124 airports. We propose to expand our airport capacity more than five times to handle a billion trips a year under the NABH Nirman initiative. Balance sheet of AAI shall be leveraged to raise more resources for funding this expansion."

panies placed orders for more

KUMAR MANGALAM

BIRLA Chairman Aditya Birla Group

FOCUSED GAZE ON SOCIAL, ACADEMIC FRONT

'ndia's agriculture sector has received enormous attention and rightfully so. The farm sector has been extremely stressed due to the vagaries of the weather and the disconnect

between cost and income. The farm sector is responsible for more than half of our people's livelihood. So it is very comforting to note the govern-ment's intent to double farm incomes by 2022. Farm reforms have been a crying need for decades and this Budget aims to tackle one of the biggest issues faced by farmers — the disconnect between cost and income.

The Budget has announced

that minimum support pricing (MSP) of crops will be linked to

production costs and fixed it at 1.5 times the costs. This is an excellent move. It

will help farmers earn a return on their investments, and be less vulnerable to unpredictable weather conditions and volatile market cycles.

There have been other announcements like expansion of warehouse depository system, strengthening and expansion of e-NAM and development of Gramin Agricultural Markets that will be exempted from regulations of APMCs. All these will resonate with India's agricultural markets, and hopefully boost rural consumption.

Yet another initiative is the

introduction of health insur-

India's agriculture sector has received enormous attention and rightfully so

ance coverage for all. The announcement of ₹5 lakh medical cover for 10 crore households is a huge positive step. It will bring over 50 million individuals under insurance coverage and provide them with a much-needed financial net. We are moving towards universal health coverage. There have been other big ticket social messages. Free gas connections for about eight crore households, which will have the twin benefit of reducing air pollution and improving living con-

To improve the quality of education, the quality and training of teachers, needs to be upped manifold. So Union finance minister Arun Jaitley has announced an integrated B.Ed. programme. The use of technology to upgrade skills of teachers (through the recently launched digital portal

'Diksha" is vital. Likewise, to increase the digital intensity in the education system in rural areas by gradually moving from "black board" to "digital board" is much need

By emphasising health security and education, the Finance

Minister reiterated the view that this goes to build India's human capital. India's great growth promise is its young

demography.

The reduction in the corporate tax rate to 25 per cent for companies with a turnover under ₹250 crore will give the much required impetus to the MSME sector. This will also spawn jobs — an urgent need

for bolstering the economy.

Finally, even as the fiscal deficit for FY18 at 3.5 per cent has exceeded the Budget target, the positive aspect is that the government is sticking to the path of fiscal consolidation with a budgeted fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent for FY19.



This is a prudent Budget that is directionally on track, with a focused gaze on the social, academic and economic front, in the spirit of inclusive growth. It endeavours to strike a balance between fiscal priorities and growth.

DMK president M. K. Stalin on Thursday began his marathon meetings at Anna Arivalayam, with party cadres to strengthen the DMK

Take part in events that enlarge your vision of the world & enable you to play a part in improving

> —Banwarilal **Purohit TN Governor**



TAKES

Man held for rape of minor

Chennai: City police have arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly sexually abusing a schoolgirl in Teynampet, on Thursday. According to police, S. Ilamaran (30), a native of Mandaveli, is a friend of the victim's family for the last past 10 years. On January 26, the family members had left for Kerala to attend a family function. Since their 17year-old girl, a plus-2 stu-dent had examination she was left to stay with her classmate. Ilamaran dropped the family at Central railway station and came back home. He asked the victim and her friend to stay in different rooms, while he stayed in the hall. During midnight he allegedly stepped into the girl's room and raped her. He threatened her not to disclose the matter to her parents and repeated his act for five days. Based on a complaint from the victim's mother. Pondy Bazaar police have registered a case under Pocso Act and women harassment case and arrested

3 held for selling highways' land

llamaran

Chennal: Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested three persons including a woman for selling land that belongs to state highways department on Thursday. The police said that the state highways department had acquired land in Korattur for the inner-ring road project Meanwhile, accused Varatharajan allegedly registered the land in the name

of Vanaja of Shenoy Nagar and 5 others. Subsequently, Vanaja sold the land worth ₹1.35 crore to Shanthi of Shenoy Nagar. Knowing that the land had been sold to her in a fraudulent manner, Shanthi approached the police and a case was registered. The CCB police on Thursday, arrested Vanaja, A.D. Murugan and D. Thilak all residents of Shenoy

Test bed to help independent researchers

Nagar. The search is on to

nab other, the police said.

From P1

"It will enable technology developers across the country, particularly the start-ups to live-test their products for compliance and performance by connecting to the

test bed. It is expected that several start-ups will emerge from this nationwide effort to build next-generation wireless technologies based on our own IP," he added. 'The 5G network can increase the data rate of 4G about 1000 times and the battery life will be 10 times more. We cannot imagine how the traffic would be in the new technology. The test bed will help to validate the new technology," said Professor M.Meenakshi, ECE department at Anna University. She further said the new test bed will be useful to independent researchers working in the city and help them to validate their research. L.SenthilKumar, a research scholar in wireless technology said, "India's contribution to 3G and 4G technology is limited. But, in 5G technology, many researchers are working in the areas like the Internet of Things and Software Defined Networking. It will help to develop the technology in

■ 7 cases against accused pending in various police stations

Dharmapuri man held for ₹2 cr medical seat racket

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

In yet another medical admission racket in the state, the city police have arrested a Dharmapuri man for allegedly duping ₹2 crore from parents, promising their children medical seats.

One of the victims, Anitha of Chennai had approached the Chennai commissioner seeking action against a man who duped her of ₹35 lakh. In the complaint, Anitha alleged that she had given money to R. Rajeshwaran (38), Aasiriyar Colony of

Plea filed to

recover losses

from bus strike

DC CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Chennai

have approached the Madras high court to

direct the state govern-ment to take immediate

steps to recover losses

incurred by the state due

to the recent bus strike

from the transport corporation employees.
The petitions filed by N.

Jnardhanan and M.

Muthukumar are likely to

come up for hearing before the First Bench

comprising Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Abdul Quddhose

In their petitions, they

submitted that transport employees' unions can act

only in accordance with

law, but the recent actions

of the unions in resorting

to strike has not only

affected the public at large, but also incurring

financial loss to the trans-

port corporations. The workers have withdrawn

their strike after the intervention of the high

But the government has

now passed the burden of

heeding to their demand

on the people by increas-

ing bus fare. If the losses

incurred were allowed to

be borne by the govern-

public through bus fare

hike and tax, it would set

a bad precedent to other government employees,

allowed to be borne

by the govt. or the

they added.

If the losses

incurred were

general public

through bus fare

hike and tax, it

would set a bad

govt. employees

precedent to other

on Friday.

CHENNAI, FEB. 1

Rajeshwaran had promised parents MBBS seats in places outside Tamil Nadu. He had collected ₹2 cr from them

Dharmapuri in 2015 on different occasions.

Rajeshwaran had promised to get Anitha's son an MBBS seat in Pune-based medical college, according to the complaint.

But Rajeshwaran failed to get the medical seat and he allegedly threat-

Contending that the

design of the story made

by Amrutha, who claimed that she is the dau-

ghter of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

late J. Jayalalithaa, see-

ms to be a plot hatched

by her to grab the prop-erties of late Jayalali-

thaa, J. Deepak, nephew

of Jayalalithaa has inf-

ormed the Madras high

court that the present petition is filed with the ulterior motive of dam-

aging the dignity and

reputation of Jayalalit-

haa and also to get unl-

awful enrichment by cla-iming such false identi-

ty.
Justice S. Vaidyanathan before whom the counter affidavit was

filed, posted to February 20, further hearing of

ened Anitha when she

asked her money back. Following the complaint, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) had registered a case and is investigating. Meanwhile, Rajeshwaran had absconded, the police said.

During the investigation, it came to light that Rajeshwaran allegedly duped many parents in different parts of the state.

"He would promise the parents MBBS seats in medical colleges functioning in other states. There are 7 cases pending in various police sta-

Amrutha wants to grab

Jaya's property: Deepak

Denying all the allega-

tions made by Amrutha,

Deepak submitted that

his grandmother Sand-

hya had one son, namely

Jayakumar and one daughter Miss Jayalalithaa.

As such the claim of the

petitioner that late Miss

Shylaja was the sister of

Jayalalithaa was utterly false. It was from this

false story, the petitioner

was taking her lead to

fabricate her untenable

claims in the affidavit,

He said the petitioner's

mother (Shylaja) was

facing a defamation case

for claiming that she

was the sister of late Jayalalithaa and the said case was filed by

the state government while Jayalalithaa was

the chief minister, he

Referring to Amru-tha's prayer, he said the last rites to be perfor-

he added.

added.

Rajeshwaran," a police source said

The accused Raieswaran, using the same modus operandi, had allegedly duped Shahul Ameed of Virudunagar of ₹40 lakh and Mathi Mohan of Myladurai of ₹37 lakh.

There are complaints of cheating from Sugumari of Coimbatore (₹35 lakh), Kasinathan of Ramanathapuram (₹35 lakh), Nelson of Chennai (₹20 lakh) against Raje-shwaran," the police ad-

The special team arrested Rajeshwaran at Dh-armapuri on Wednesday, the police said.

med as per the follow-

ings of a particular com-

munity depend upon the

circumstances. "I took part in the burial of Jayalalithaa and I per-

formed all the last ritu-

als in the presence of several neighbours and

cabinet ministers, according to the Vaishnava Iyengar Brahmin com-

munity in Poes Garden

and also at the burial

site. The reason assi-

gned in the affidavit that

the petitioner approached this court only to

perform the last rites as

per the community tra-

dition is not true", he

added. He said the peti-

tioner was not entitled to seek the relief of the

DNA test and this was

not the appropriate for-

um to seek such relief

since so many disputed

questions of facts have

to be proved before gra-

nting such relief.

CBCID to probe fake currency, gun trade

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

The illegal gun trade and fake currency case, which reportedly involves Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI has been transferred to CBCID for further investigation.

of Amma Two Wheeler Scheme

The city police, after a 'stunt-filled' chase in Tiruvottiyur railway station, had nabbed K. Kamal of Tirumangalam and J. Pradeep of Perambur on January 29. The police also seized 5 pistols and ₹4 lakh fake currency from their

The police investigation had led to Rafique, a prisoner in Puzhal central jail. Further interrogation with Rafique had led the police to Zakeer Husain, who was arrested for alleged links with the ISI.

With the case entangled in well-established international networks, DGP (Law and Order) T.K. Rajendiran handed over the case to CBCID on Thursdav.

Women make a beeline to apply for new driving license, following state's announcement

The documents related to the case would be given to CBCID on Friday, a police source said.

Another accused surrenders: Chennai, Fed 1: In a turn of events, another accused in fake currency and gun trade case, S. Sathish of Perambur had surrendered before Ambattur court on Thursday. The city police have been

on a search for Sathish who had absconded. However, Sathish appeared before Ambattur magisterial court, where magistrate Anitha Anand ordered to lock him in judicial cus-

Sathish is a close aide of the Pradeep and Kamal, the other accused in the

I-T RAIDS ON HOUSES OF 15 INDUSTRIALISTS

Salem: In a surprise development, income tax (I-T) officials raided houses of 15 industrialists in Salem and Namakkal dis-tricts late on Wednesday night.

According to official sources, a private mar-riage hall at Andakalu-rgate near Rasipuram in Namakkal district is being run by 15 industrialists as partners. However, they had not submitted details regarding their income from the property.

Meanwhile on

Wednesday, 17 teams comprising 50 officials from Salem Income Tax Commissionerate launched surprise checks late last night. The houses of 12 industrialists in Namakkal district and three houses in Salem district were searched till early hours of Thursday.

BPCL to pay ₹2 lakh, hand over property to owner

DC CORRESPONDENT

Condemning the conduct of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) for trying to usurp a property Tiruvallur district, which was given on lease to it by the owner of the property way back in 1963, the Madras high court has imposed a cost of ₹2 lakh on BPCL.

Dismissing the second appeal filed by the BPCL and allowing a petition from R. Sivaprakasam, owner of the property, measuring 15, 000 sq.ft, Justice S. Vaidyanathan directed the BPCL to pay the cost for Sri Balagurukulam Primary School in Villivakkam within 30

According to petitioner, his grandfather R.R.S. Ekambaram leased out the property in favour of M/s Bhurma Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company of India for 20 years from October 1, 1963, and the rent was fixed at ₹75 per



company was taken over by Central government and the statutory corpora-tion was formed on January 24, 1976, and BPCL had continued as lessee after 1976 till October 1, 1983, on the same terms. His grandfather executed a registered will dated May 5, 1988, bequeathing the property in his favour. The lease was further renewed till 2003 as per the terms of the

contract.

He was willing to renew the lease at ₹64000 per month rent, instead, BPCL filed a suit seeking renewal and it was dismissed and even the appeal was dis-

missed. He also filed the present petition to cancel the explosive license grant-

ed to BPCL.

The judge said even assuming that the lower appellate court has failed to take into consideration clause of the document dated December 5, 1995 (lease), BPCL will not be entitled to any relief, as renewal was not a matter of right. Further, the second lease was not permissible. "As there is no renewal of an explosive license, BPCL cannot continue its business in the place of occupation", the judge added. The judge said BPCL was a 'state' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution, which was amenable to the writ jurisdiction of this court. Hence, this court was of the view that BPCL has to hand over possession of the property within 45 days, otherwise, it was open to the petitioner to enter into the premises and take possession of the property, the judge added.

TRYING

Government school students take part in a dance competition organised by Government Museum at Egmore on Thursday.

HELIUM CYLINDER BLAST

Victim's parents seek action against school

VELLORE, FEB. 1

A plus-2 student was killed and another student was severely injured when a helium cylinder blasted at the CMC Ground in Bagayam on Wednesday. V.Jitesh (17), son of Velu. Jitesh, was a plus-2 wo student at Shanthi Nik-etan Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Sathuvacheri. Secondary Jitesh and his friends had gone to the CMC Ground to participate in the school's sports day event. The mishap happened around 4.30pm when a cylinder kept in the ground to fill helium gas into balloons blasted and flew in the air for over 100 metres and tore apart a plastic water drum and hit a two-wheeler before smashing Jitesh's head, killing him on the spot. Another student Naveen, a plu-1e

student,

sustained

DC CORRESPONDENT • A cylinder kept in the ground to fill balloons with helium gas blasted at around 4:30 p.m. According to police, the cylinder was used sans any authorisation

> severe injuries and multiple fractures and is admitted to CMC hospital. The family of Naveen submitted a petition seeking action against the school management to the district administration. According to the police officials, the cylinder was used without any authorisation.The cylinder owner, Ganapathi, a resident of Murugan Kovil street at Karugamputhur, fled from the spot after the incident. However, the Bagayam police had registered a case and are investigating.

recruitment

2 more Chennai: The cyber crime wing of the central crime branch (CCB) of the Chennai poliheld in ce has arrested two more accused in connection with the alleged scam in the recruitpolytechnic alleged scam in the recruitment polytechnics in the state.

The arrested were identified as Nathan (45) of Chitlapa-kkam and Paramasivam (35) of **SCAM** East Tambaram. Both the arrestedremained absconding. Nathan had been attached to the firm that processed answersheets and worked as a scanner,

Earlier, the police had arrested Sheik Dawood for allegedly manipulating the list of the selected candidates. Also, police had arrested Ganesh, a call taxi driver and others. The action has been initiated after Teacher Recruitment Board (TRB) member-secretary Uma filed a complaint with CCB. The police have registered cases against 156 in link with the scam. After TRB examination, at least 230 candidates got fake marks on the OMR sheet. —DC

according to police.

Cops foil self-immolation bid at collectorate

Coimbatore:

Khaja Hussein, a resident of Selvapuram Housing unit attempted self-immolation at the district collectorate here on Thursday by pour-ing kerosene on him. However, alert police men on duty at the campus doused him with water and prevented Khaja from taking the extreme step. When he was questioned about

the motive behind the attempt, he said that an auto rickshaw stand that started to function before his house has also impacted business of a petty shop that he owns and runs. When officials failed to take action after he filed repeated complains, Khaja attempted the extreme

Arrest order for vessel at Kattupalli port Ship's company nent disability or personal

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

The Madras high court has ordered the arrest of the vessel, MV ZIM XIAMEN, presently lying in Indian

waters at the port of Kattupalli, Chennai, till February 7.

Justice C.V. Karthikeyan passed the interim order on January 31 while ordering notice to the owner of the

vessel and also the Kattupalli port authorities on an application arising out of a suit filed by Kumar Alangaram Fernando. According to the appli-

seaman without the plaintiff, damages for injury

had discharged a

cant, he has been employed by the group, which owned the present vessel and other vessels from 2007.

He was on board the vessel MV WOODGATE, as part of his job he was asked to remove the fishing net entangled in the propeller manually, a job which was executed by him and in the

process, he had injured his lower back due to the conditions in which he had to carry out the work, he added. He said medical attention

had been denied to him by the owners of the vessel. Now, he had received information that another vessel belonging to the same group MV ZIM XIAMEN, had berthed in Kattupalli port on January 31. According to the schedule forwarded, the vessel was scheduled to leave on

February 1, he added. His counsel S. Vasudevan submitted that Seaman,

who has worked diligently and tirelessly had been rudely cast away by the owners of the ship. He that unless restraining orders were passed as against the vessel, it would be very difficult to recover the amount due to

the applicant, he added. The judge said the documents filed substantiate the facts that the plaintiff was actually employed. He was given a work contract. There was an agreement for

such employment. The work contract also stipulated payment of compensation in case of perma-

made out a prima facie case to seek the relief sought. Irreparable hardship would be caused if the vessel, which is now lying at Kattupalli port is not restrained by an order of the court since the repre-

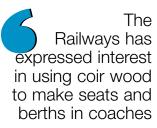
injury.

"These documents clearly show that the plaintiff has sentations of the plaintiff have not been heeded by the defendant (owners of the vessel)", the judge added.

A certificate of the hospi

tal giving his present medical condition has also been

enclosed as a document.





Radhakrishnan **Coir Board** chairman

SHORT TAKES 4 get life term for

murder in Ooty

Ooty: Four persons, including a woman, have been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering two persons here five years ago. As per the prosecution, there was a previous animosity between one Franklin (22) and his neighbour Nagaraj, in old Ooty area, over some issues. In April 2013, when Franklin came in a motorbike and parked it near a place where Nagaraj (52) and his son Jayashankar (28) were standing at Old Ooty area, a quarrel erupted between them. On hearing the verbal battle between them, Nagaraj's wife Prema(47) and

Franklin's uncle Arul Dass (40), line-inspector, came to the spot. While the quarrel intensi-fied, Nagaraj, his wife Prema, their son Jayashankar and one Krishnamurthy (31), a friend of

Jayashankar, allegedly stabbed Arul Dass and Franklin by using broken bottle pieces. While Arul Dass succumbed to injury at the spot, Franklin died in the

hospital. Police here arrested all the four accused in the case. The Mahila court here which heard the case sentenced all the four accused to life imprisonment and slapped a fine of ₹3, 000 on

History-sheeter detained under **Goondas Act**

Tiruchy: City Police Commissioner A. Amalraj ordered the detention of a 32year-old history-sheeter under Goondas Act at Tiruchy on Thursday.A police release said, the detenu Baskar alias North D Baskar of Budalur

Thanjavur district faced 26 criminal cases including a few murder cases in Tiruchy, Pudukkottai, Nagapa ttinam, and Thanjavur districts. He was recently arrested by the Woriyur police in connection with a waylaying case and lodged in the Central prison, where he was served the order today.

■ Madurai bench directs state to act within two weeks

Give funds for carbon dating Adhichanallur artefacts: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT MADURAI, FEB. 1

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High court Tamil Nadu government to allocate funds for sending artefacts unearthed at Adhichanallur for carbon dating within two weeks time.

Retired archaeologist Sathiya Moorthy who has overseen the three phase of excavation at Adhichanallur,

ancient archaeological site near Thoothukudi, has informed the court that the artefacts found at the site could be around 4,000 years old. Recording his submission, the division bench comprising Justices N

Woman killed,

to death

murderer beaten

DC CORRESPONDENT ERODE, FEB. 1

An elderly woman was

murdered by her relative

near here on Thursday

and the killer was beaten

to death by the victim's

son and some workers on

the spot. Police said Tha-

ngavel, 52, resident of Th-

ottampalayam village ru-

ns a power-loom unit at

his home. His neighbour

and relative Arumugam used to frequently quarrel

with his family. Suspec-

ting a mental disorder in

his kin, Thangavel arra-

Coimbatore recently.

nged for his treatment at

Meanwhile on Thursday,

Arumugam came to Tha-

ngavel's home, quarreled

with his mother Mara-

mmal, 78, and charged Th-

angavel with making him seem a lunatic in the vil-

lage. Following an argu-

ment, Arumugam assault-

ed her with iron rod and

she succumbed to injuries

from power-loom unit ru-

shed to the spot on hear-

ing Mariammal's screa-

ms, beat Arumugam to

death after tying him to a

njikoil police rushed to

the spot and recovered bo-

th the bodies. Police have

taken Thangavel and wo-

rkers for inquiry. Further

information, Ka-

Thangavel and workers

on the spot.



cate funds for carbon dat-

ing to determine the age

of the artefacts.

RUDHRAN BARAASU | DC CHENNAI, FEB. 1

connections.

and sewer.

ters in height.

The owners of new build-

ings in the city have to

visit Chennai corporati-

on zonal offices to get completion certificates, as

the civic body has made

the certificates mandato-

ry for availing service

According to a circular issued by the works

department of Chennai

corporation recently, new

buildings in the cate-gories of 'ordinary bu-ilding' with four and

above dwelling units, ord-

inary commercial build-

ings and institutional bu-

ilding are entailed to get

completion certificates to

avail service connections such as electricity water

Chennai Metropolitan

Development Authority

(CMDA) has been issuing

completion certificates

for special buildings that

are more than nine-me-

To build special build-

ings, the builders or own-ers have to get building plan approval from the

CMDA. Buildings with

stilt plus 2 floors and

ground plus one floor and

buildings within nine-meter height fall under

The Judges issued this fourth phase. direction when it heard the petition filed by one S from

Seyundunganallur village in Thoothukudi district who stated that even after 14 years of the completion of excavation at Adhichanallur, Archaeological Survey of India had not submitted its report to the Central government.

When the judges questioned the archaeologist in connection with delay in filing the report, Sathiya Moorthy said that he had already sub-mitted reports for three phases of the excavation and was also ready to assist in the preparation of report for the excavation conducted in the

Corpn decides to issue

completion certificates

To avail service

has to get CC

connections for the

(Completion certifi-

cate) from CMDA.

CC, some building

violate the approved

plan, which affects

the safety of the

CHENNAI

CORPORATION

occupiers/tenants

- SENIOR OFFICIAL

the purview of the

However, Chennai corporation, which issues

planning permission for

the buildings below 9-me-

ter height, has not been

in the practice of issuing

completion certificates to them, which resulted in

large-scale building vio-

"To avail service con-

nections for the special

buildings, one has to get

CC (Completion certifi-

cate) from CMDA. Since

mandated the CC, some

building owners tend to

violate the approved plan, which affects the safe-

nas not

lations in the city.

the corporation

Chennai corporation.

owners tend to

special buildings, one

Since the corporation

has not mandated the

The judges then asked the public prosecutor whether the state government or ASI will arrange facilities for it. In this regard, the court asked

the PP to submit a report

on February 18.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

On the petitioner's contention about sand mining activities near the site, the Thoothukudi collector who appeared in person, told the court that no sand mining activities were reported in the locality.

Recording his submission, the court directed the collector to erect fencing around the site and also to set up a police outpost there. The next hearing was posted to

ty of the occupiers/tenants," a Chennai corpora-

that building owners ha-

ve to pay ₹1.50 per sq.mt of build-up area as the scrutiny fees while applying for CC. The givin heady

ing for CC. The civic body

also has issued separate

guidelines for issuing

completion certificates

for commercial, residential and institutional

will have to submit appli-cations for CC in Town Planning counters in res-pective zonal offices.

After receiving the appli-

cation, the respective

assistant executive engi-

neer will make the site

visit and verify the condi-

tions, scrutinize the drawings," the official said.

has come after the mem-

ber secretary of CMDA sent a missive requesting

the civic body to issue CC to ordinary buildings.

The official also added

that if the structures fail

to satisfy the norms and

guidelines, the applica-

within 15 days from the

date of receipt of the

application," the circular

applications be disposed of

tion would be rejected.

should

It is learnt that move

'The building owners

buildings.

The circular also added

tion official said.



Students visit DRDO exhibition stall during the Kurukshetra an International Techno Management Fest 2018 at College of Engineering Guindy, Anna University, on Thursday.

ARASU CABLE SEEKS COPS' HELP IN SEIZING MSOs' EQUIPMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited (TACTV) has sent a DO letter to Greater Chennai Police Commissioner seeking seizure of equipment from multi system operators (MSOs) who continue to operate analog cable TV network, on Thursday.

In the letter to A.K. Viswanathan, city police commissioner, J. Kumaragurubaran, managing director, TACTV, said that in compliance with the ministry of information and broadcasting, TACTV, had switched off its analog cable TV signals in Chennai Metropolitan Area from January 31.

"TACTC have distributed 19 lakh free set-top boxes in Tamil Nadu and is progressing fast in digitalisa-

According to the DO let-

ter, the TACTV had granted licences to MSOs. "Some MSOs are continuing with their Analog Cable TV sig-nal transmission in Chennai, which is a violation of Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995," Kumaragurubaran

explained in the missive. Kumaragurubaran also raised concerns that TA-CTV's digitalization efforts are being thwarted by the continued Analog Cable TV transmission or retransmission by some MSOs.

"Government of India requested officers to take stern action against the defaulting MSOs. The city police should take action against erring MSOs under section 11 of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995, which entails seizure of the equipment of the defaulting MSOs," Kumaragurubaran said in the letter.

Four held for lorry driver's murder

DC CORRESPONDENT PERAMBALUR, FEB. 1

In a sudden development the district police arrested four persons in connection with the murder of a lorry driver here on Thursday. Police said the deceased driver, Ganesan, (45), of Manmangalam in Karur district had come to a lorry booking office at Perambalur on Sunday. However, something happened to the poor driv-er under mysterious cir-

cumstances and police rescued the lorry driver with severe injuries from a roadside field, on the same evening, and he was admitted to Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government hospital at Tiruchy, where he succumbed to his injuries later. In connection with this case, police arrested Raja (18) and his friends.

Stalin interacts with party cadre from districts

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

DMK Working President M K Stalin on Thursday kicked off a nearly twomonth long interaction with party functionaries from the village to district levels in all districts of Tamil Nadu as part of the efforts to prepare them to face the local body polls that are expected to be announced soon. The sessions are being held at the

Anna Arivalayam here. Stalin began the meetings by an elaborate interactive session with the officebearers at multiple levels from the village level upward belonging to Coimbatore City (North and South) and Nilgiris. In a bid to get the confidence of the cadre, Stalin had also announced that a 'complaint box' would be installed at the venue to enable party functionaries to air their grievances against any local leader.

The "complaint box" was prominently placed at the Kalaignar Arangam at the Anna Arivalayam - DMK headquarters - on Thursday as the interaction began. The media has been barred entry into the meeting hall.

"Thalapathi heard every one at the meeting, taking **உடன்பிறப்புகளுடன்** களஆய்வு

notes at times. He asked tion that the DMK is seriprobing questions. He told the gathering of DMK funcbody elections. "Local body and legislationaries that he was aware of all their problems and would strive to address

get ready for the elections", said a DMK senior requesting anonymity. The interaction with party functionaries comes at a time when the DMK is under tremendous pressure to perform well in the local body elections since this is the first major election that the party will face after Stalin took over as Working President. The pr-essure has ratcheted after the party forfeited deposit in the December 21 R K Nagar by-poll.

each one of them at the ear-

liest. He exhorted them to

Sources said the districtwise meeting with party functionaries ranging from village secretary to district secretary is a clear indicaous about facing the local

Stalin

with

cadres.

interacts

tive elections are two different ball games. To face the local body elections, the party needs a strong cadre base and strong unit at the village level. Once the village-level leaders meet with the leader of the party, they get enthused and work towards ensuring party's victory," anot another DMK senior said.

The session will end on March 22 with interaction with functionaries from Chennai North and East districts. Polls to local bodies were postponed in October 2016 after the Madras High Court stayed its conduct. Though the High Court has told the SEC to conduct the polls, the election body is dragging its feet citing various

HC DIRECTS AADHEENAM MUTTS TO SUBMIT PROPERTY DETAILS

DC CORRESPONDENT MADURAI, FEB.1

The Madurai bench of the Madras High Court on Wednesday directed to Aadheenam mutts across Tamil Nadu to submit their property details to the Director of Registration department.

A division bench comprising Justices N Kirubakaran and R Tharani also directed the Religious Charitable Endowment (HR & CE) department to submit the report of the last audit they have conducted on Aadheenam mutts' properties.

The court issued this direction based on a petition filed by Radhakrishnan from Chennai who alleged that the Aadheenam Thoothukudi was unable to carry out its religious services because its properties were under encroachment.

The petitioner said that thousands of acres of lands attached to the Aadheenam Mutt in Thoothukudi were under encroachment Thoothukudi and nearby Tirunelveli districts. "As the mutt is unable to generate revenue from these lands, it could not carry out the spiritual service in the area,"he claimed.



shopping and shipping through Co-optex portal and new varieties at the showroom in Egmore. Handloom department secretary K. Phanindra Reddy and Co-optex managing director T. N. Venkatesh also seen.

56-yr-old gets 5-yr RI for sexually assaulting girl

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

The special court for cases under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (Pocso Act) 2012, has awarded five years of RI for the 56-yearold shopkeeper on a charge of sexually assaulting a minor girl. The court also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on

According to Gowri Asokan, special public prosecutor, Ahamed Shabi, 56, of Palavakkam, was running a textile shop in Srinivasapuram market. On March 20, 2016, a girl,

ernment school, went to the shop to buy shoe polish. He sexually assaulted the girl, after closing her mouth with his hand.

A person, who went into the shop, noticed the incident and rescued the girl

from him. On returning home, the girl cried profusely and informed the matter to her parents. Immediately, a complaint was registered before all women police station. Mylapore, against Ahamed Shabi for committing an offence under sec-

tion 9 (m) and 10 of Posco

Act. Chargesheet filed was

studying class VI in a gov- filed against him before the

However, Ahamed Shabi denied the charges and stated that the case was foisted on him.

On completion of the trial, Judge R.N. Manjula said the prosecution proved the charges beyond reasonable doubt. The judge sentenced Ahamed Shabi to undergo rigorous imprisonment for five years. Stating that the victim, a 10-year-old child, suffered mental agony at her young age, the judge directed the state government to pay a compensation of ₹10,000 to

Actor to deliver keynote address at 'India Conference' on February 10 Kamal to bare TN's dirty side at Harvard

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

Actor-activist Kamal Haasan will speak on Tamil
Nadu at the 'India Nadu at the 'India Conference' of the prestigious Harvard University in the US, where he would most likely bare the state's underbelly of high corrup-

Kamal said he had been invited by Harvard to give keynote address at the 'India Conference' on February 10-the second time he would be delivering a lecture at the university after his talk on freedom of speech in 2016.

'The topic is Tamil Nadu. momentarily, is a great

sheer necessity. Our state has sunk to the lowest depth. It is affecting my dignity as a man, even more as a Tamilian. I yearn to see my state rise to the height it deserves. The rise of my state will translate into the rise of my nation," he said in a statement here Thursday.

"This is going to be an engagement with more fortunate minds who availed an opportunity to seek knowledge. A place that dispenses knowledge, for money or free, is still a seat of wisdom. Having their ears, even though only



Kamal Haasan

opportunity, "Kamal said of his Harvard podium.

The Harvard oration is bound to raise the hackles of many in the ruling party

where he is launching a statewide tour as a precursor to political launch. In his weekly column in the latest issue of Ananda

Vikatan , the actor took pains to explain that he was not "anti-Hindu" and took potshots at those portraying him as an enemy of the faith. Kamal, who is set to begin his political journey from the residence of late President A P J Abdul Kalam in Rameswaram on February 21, also said he considered leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar and Periyar as

his teachers. "Some people are trying

who is close to a few and opposed to others. Some also call me enemy of Hindus. How can I be called anti-Hindu when my own brother late Chandra Haasan and my daughter Shruti are devout Hindus? Can I hate them? I respect the decision of people and I respect every other religion,"0 Kamal said.

Noting that he is interested in ushering in new form of political discourse by conducting interactive sessions with the people during his political tour, he vowed to retain the dignity of public platforms from



is a 'waste of time' Nikki Haley, US

IN BRIEF

Bid to molest Ker

actor on train

Thiruvananthapuram: An actress who was harassed by a co-passenger in the AC compartment of a train in the wee hours of Thursday was rescued by two good aamaritans who were travelling in the next compartment. An actress, who was travelling from Kannur to Thiruvananthapuram in the Mangalore Thiruvanathapuram Maveli Express, said those in her compartment pretended to sleep while she raised her voice as the man reached out from the opposite berth and touched her lips while she was sleeping around.

PMLA: ED files

charges on ex-CM New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday filed a chargesheet in a Delhi court against former Himachal Pradesh CM Virbhadra Singh and his wife Pratibha Singh in a money laundering case. The charge sheet, filed before Special Judge Santosh Snehi Mann, named six accused.

Arunachal CM

expands Cabinet

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Thursday expanded his ministry by inducting Jarkar Gamlin as a Cabinet minister. With Gamlin's induction, the total strength of the Cabinet has risen to 12. The portfolio of the newly-inducted minister would be allocated soon. sources at the Chief Minister's Office here said.

NIA clears 9 held for terror charges

New Delhi: The NIA has cleared all nine persons, arrested in November last year with over ₹36 crore in old currency notes, of terror financing charges, officials said here on Thursday. They had collected the money with the intention of exchanging it, officials in the probe agency said. A special NIA court released them on

bail on Thursday,

officials said.

BYPOLL UPSET

Congress hands BJP big loss in Rajasthan

■ TMC wins 2 bypolls in West Bengal, BJP finishes second

Similarly, difference between Congress candidate Dr. Karan Singh Yadav and BJP's Dr. Jaswant Yadav is close to 2 lakh votes in Alwar, which Bhanwar Jitendra Singh a member of erst-while royal family and congress president Rahul Gandhi's core team had lost to late Mahant Chandnath of BJP by 2.83 lakhs during Modi wave. Defeat in Alwar is sig-nificant also from the view point that it has been at the center of cow politics where three members of minority community have been killed by cow vigilantes or the police. Adding fuel to the fire, the local BJP MLAs here have been attempting polarization by justifying these deaths and questioning increasing Muslim population.

DEATH OF TMC

NECESSITATES

MP'S WIFE

BYPOLL



Congress workers celebrate the party's win in Mandalgarh Assembly seat in Bikaner on Thursday.

From page 1

Sajda is the wife of TMC MP Sultan Ahmed, whose death necessitated the bypoll. The BJP's vote in the seat has doubled as the party secured slightly over 1.37 lakh votes in Uluberia in the 2014 Lok

Sabha election.
CPI(M) candidate
Sabiruddin Mollah finished third securing 1,38,792 votes. In the 2014 Lok Sabha poll the party

emerged fourth by securing only 23,108 votes. In Noapara Assembly constituency in North 24 Parganas district TMC candidate Sunil Singh bagged over 3.69 lakh emerged victorius securvotes in the constituency. ing 1,01,729 votes, while BJP's Sandip Banerjee got 38,711 votes. —*PTI* Congress candidate Muddasor Hossain Warsi

DECCAN CHRONICLE

NO FRESH VIOLENCE AT KASGANJ

New Delhi, Feb. 1: No fresh violence was reported since Wednesday night in Kasganj which now looks like an impregnable fortress due to the heavy deployment of gun-toting security personnel.

The police headquarters in Lucknow said combing operations had been intensified to nab Naseem and Waseem.

The two are brothers of Saleem, the prime accused in the killing of Chandan Gupta. Saleem was arrested on Wednesday. Saleem, who is in his 30s, and his brothers, are accused of killing the 22 year-old college student,

police said. There was heavy deployment of state police, PAC jawans and personnel

SC makes public system for allocation of cases

From page 1

Though the CJI has made an attempt to resolve the roster system, sources told this newspaper that the issue raised by the four judges is yet to be fully resolved to their satisfaction. On January 12, four judges Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, Madan Lokur and Kurian Joseph who felt that hey were being sidelined in allocation of important cases, alleged that the situation in the Supreme Court was not in order and said 'less than desirable" things have taken

months. In an apparent warning, they said lack of impartiality in allocation of high profile cases and con-

PRESIDENT

REMAINS

POPULAR

place in the last few



stitution of benches with judges could imperil India's democracy. Listing of case relating to probe into the death of judge B.H. Loya to a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra triggered the controversy.

Later it was suggested by the four judges that a committee should be set up with the involvement of future chief justices to prepare the roster, which should be more transparent and made public.

As per the revised system, the CJI will hear all PILs, election matters, criminal cases, social justice cases, appointment of Constitutional tionaries, matters relating to Commission of enquiry etc. Justice Chelameswar, will hear Labour, Indirect taxes, criminal matters, consumer protection etc Justice Gogoi will hear cases relating to labour, tax laws, company law, criminal matters, excise and liquor issues. Justice will near cases relating to ecology and environment, mines and minerals, social justice issues, Justice Joseph will

hear matters on labour,

Bachchan fumes over cut in Twitter followers ■ THE 75-YR-OLD

Mumbai, Feb. 1: Megastar Amitabh Bach-chan is not happy that his Twitter following has come down from 33 mil-

lion to 32.9 million.

The 75-year-old actor, in a post joked that he may consider leaving the

consider leaving the microblogging site.
"TWITTER you reduced my number of followers....
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!
Thats a joke... Time to get off from you. Thank you for the ride. There are for the ride... There are many 'other' fish in the sea - and a lot more excit-

ing (sic)" he tweeted. Superstar Shah Rukh Khan also has 32.9 million followers on Twitter.

Apart from Twitter, Bachchan is also active on photo sharing website Instagram and his official blog. The microblogging site had started an investigation into fake followers in response to a *New York Times* article that alleged



Amitabh Bachchan

actor joked that he may consider leaving the microblogging site **■ SUPERSTAR** Shah

Rukh Khan also has 32.9 million followers on Twitter

■ BIG B is also active on Instagram

there were some compa-

nies that were indulging in "selling followers" for a price.

Twitter had said, "The tactics used by Devumi on our platform and others as described by today's NYT article violate our policies and are unacceptable to us. We are working to stop them and any companies like them.

However, Twitter India refused to comment on the development. With

3,29,41,837 followers, superstar Shah Rukh Khan is now the industry's most followed personality on the micro-

blogging site. NY Times reported that entertainers, entrepre-neurs, athletes and media figures were among those who lost followers in the US. Most of these followers or artificial engagement were bought from a firm called Devumi.

AADHAAR DATA INFLATED, SAYS COUNSEL DIVAN

From page 1

During the last hearing on Tuesday, Justice Chandrachud quoted the report of World Bank lauding the Aadhar pro-gramme as it had resulted in savings and elimination of bogus claims of benefi-

ciaries.
Today Mr. Divan disputed the figures of World Bank and even as he raised his voice to drive home his point, Justice Chandrachud took exception to his submissions and said, "I don't care if I am branded as an Aadhaar judge. You (counsel) are repeatedly giving an impression that I am an Aadhaar judge and 25 years down the line people who read the judgment will call me Aadhaar judge. Expressing his anguish over the implied insinuation, Justice Chandrachud said, "I don't mind being called a capitalist or ideologically committed. I am not a liberal judge, but I am a nationalist and committed to justice and the Constitution. It does' not mean that we should accept all your arguments. If we don't accept your argument, then we are branded as Aadhaar judge. As a lawyer myself for over 20 years, I can say I am neither an Aadhaar judge nor an NGO lawyer.'

Death for child rapists opposed DC CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, FEB. 1

Even as the Centre opposed capital punishment to the accused involved in sexual assault of children, the Supreme Court on Thursday called for details of cases pending under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to examine whether time limit can be fixed for completion of such trials.

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Kanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud asked petitioner Alakh Alok tioner Alakh Alok Srivastava to furnish these details even as he pleaded for capital pun-ishment to child rapists. On a petition filed by him, the bench on Wednesday directed that the eightmonth-old girl child who was raped be admitted in AIIMS. During the resumed hearing on Thursday the two doctors of AIIMS informed the court that as per the directions the child was admitted to the Institute and treatment was being given to the child. The court was also informed that the parents, who are daily wage earners, were given ₹75,000 towards interim compensation. petition,

8-MONTH-OLD **RAPE VICTIM** SHIFTED TO AIIMS

New Delhi, Feb. 1: The eight-month-old baby, who was allegedly raped by her 28-yearold cousin, has been shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for better medical care, the Centre informed the Supreme Court on

Thursday.
The bench, headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, expressed its concern over the incident and asked the Centre and the peti-tioner's lawyer to file details of pending cases of sexual assault against children across the country. The local hospital performed the corrective surgery in a professional manner, AIIMS said in its report. -PTIreport.

Srivastava has sought the irgent iraming of guide lines on the investigation and trial of cases of rape of children between 0-12 vears of age, to ensure they are completed within six months from the date of filing of FIR.

WORLD

FIRE KILLS 11 AT HOME FOR **ELDERLY**

Tokyo, Feb. 1: Eleven people were killed in northern Japan after fire broke out at a home for elderly people with financial difficulties, police said on

Television footage showed the three-storey building engulfed in flames and dozens of firefighters battling the blaze in snowy conditions.

Pictures of the aftermath showed the blackened husk of the building, whose roof had apparently collapsed due to the fire. The victims — eight men and three women — were among 16 residents of the facility in Sapporo, Hokkaido, run by a local organisation.

The other five residents

escaped, a police spokesman said, adding that authorities were investigating the victims' identities. Kenji Kikai, a local police official, said: "Of the five people who escaped, three people — two men and one woman - were rushed to hospital. The two men were slightly injured and the woman sustained moderate injuries. "They are still hospitalised but the injuries are not life-threatening," added Kikai. Two others escaped unharmed. Police said they had launched a probe into the cause of the fire first alerted at 11.42

via an emergency call. The accommodation was originally a Japanese inn built around 50 years ago that was later turned into a welfare home. The facility is aimed at supporting elderly people with financial difficulties by offering low-cost accommodation and helping them find work, broadcaster NHK reported.

pm (local time) on Wednesday

FBI clashes with Trump, 'gravely concerned' about Russia memo

Washington, Feb. 1: In a remarkably public clash of wills with the White House, the FBI declared on Thursday it has "grave concerns" about the accuracy of a classified memo on the Russia election investigation that President Donald Trump wants released.
The FBI's short and

sharp statement, its first on the issue, laid bare a Trump administration conflict that had previously played out mostly behind closed doors in meetings between top Justice Department and White House officials.

"As expressed during our initial review, we have grave concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo's accuracy,' the FBI said.

The agency's stance on the memo, conveyed in a two-paragraph statement, escalates the dispute and means that Mr Trump will be openly defying his hand-picked FBI director by continuing to push for the memo's disclosure. It also suggests a clear will-ingness by FBI Director Christopher Wray to challenge a president who just months ago fired his pred-

ecessor, James Comey.
The FBI statement came the day after Trump was overheard telling a congressman that he "100 per cent" supported release of the memo. — Agencies

TRUMP RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS \$22 MILLION

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP STARTED HIS FORMAL RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN EARLIER THAN ANY OF HIS RECENT PREDECESSORS. AND THAT APPEARS TO BE PAYING OFF.

tial politics and its billion-dollar campaigns, but it still signals Mr Trump's aggressiveness contributors with the election more than two years away. are small donors who gave \$200 or less.

MONEY MATTERS ■ That's chump change in modern presiden-

> \$2.2 million the President raised in direct contributions for his campaign during the final quarter of 2017.

Another \$3.5 million through a fundraising agreement with the Republican National Committee was raised.

TRUMP LETS PROTECTED SYRIANS STAY LONGER

Washington, Feb. 1: The Trump administration said Wednesday that it would allow nearly 7,000 Syrians to remain in the US for another 18 months, but won't let more Syrian citizens apply for special

protection programme.
The decision was a partial relief for aid organisations and advocates for displaced Syrians who feared President

Donald Trump might end the programme entirely, forcing those in the U.S. to leave or face deportation. Yet those same groups blasted the president for excluding more recent arrivals to the US. Under a humanitarian

programme known as Temporary Protected thousands of Syrians were allowed to avoid returning to their

war-torn country of origin. The programme was set to expire on March 31, forcing Trump to decide whether to extend. Homeland security sec-

retary Kirstjen Nielsen said "ongoing armed con-flict and extraordinary conditions" justified giving those in the programme another year and a half in the US.

- Agencies

Petrol bomb hurled at Suu Kyi's lakeside villa

Yangon, Feb. 1: A petrol bomb was thrown at the lakeside Yangon com-pound of Myanmar's leader Aung Šan Suu Kyi today while she was away from her home, a govern-

ment spokesman said. "It was a petrol bomb," spokesman Zaw Htay confirmed, without giving details on a possible motive for a small. but rare attack targeting the Myanmar democracy heroine. The petrol bomb caused minor damage. But the attack on the villa where Suu Kyi was held for long years of house arrest by the former junta is hugely symbolic.
Suu Kyi has increasing-

ly attracted the ire of the international community over her perceived failure to speak up on behalf of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim community.
Nearly 7,00,000 Rohingya

have fled a brutal military crackdown in northern Rakhine state into refugee camps in Bangladesh since August, bringing with them testimony of

murder, rape and arson. But inside Myanmar Suu Kyi, who swept elec-tions in 2015, is still widely regarded as a heroine by the majority-Buddhist population, who fondly

dub her "The Lady". Many inside Myanmar regard the Rohingya as illegal "Bengali" immigrants. Suu Kyi was in Naypyidaw at the time of the incident. -AFPthe incident.

Myanmar graves confirm massacre

Balukhali Refugee Camp (Bangladesh), Feb. 1: The faces of the men half-buried in the mass graves had been burned away by acid or blasted by bullets. Noor Kadir finally recognised his friends only by the colours of their shorts.

Kadir and 14 others, all Rohingya Muslims in the Myanmar village of Gu Dar Pyin, had been choosing players for the soccerlike game of chinlone when the gunfire began. They scattered from what sounded like hard rain on a tin roof.

the time military Myanmar stopped shooting, only Kadir and two teammates were left alive.

Days later, Kadir found six of his friends among the bodies in two graves. They are among at least

five mass graves, all previously unreported, that have been confirmed by The Associated Press through multiple interviews with more than two dozen survivors in Bangladesh refugee camps and through time-stamped cellphone videos.

The Myanmar government regularly claims such massacres of the

THE MYANMAR government regularly claims

such massacres of the Rohingya never happened, and has acknowledged only one mass grave containing 10 "terrorists" in the village of Inn Din.

Rohingya never happened, and has acknowledged only one mass grave containing 10 "terrorists" in the village of Inn Din.

However, the AP's reporting shows a systematic slaughter of Rohingya Muslim civil-ians by the military, with slaughter help from Buddhist neighbours, and suggests many more graves hold many

more people. "It was a mixed-up jum-ble of corpses piled on top of each other," said Kadir, a 24-year-old firewood collector. "I felt such sorrow for them."

The graves are the newest piece of evidence for what looks increasinglike a genocide in Myanmar's Rakhine state against the Rohingyas.

Christian

Premier

SPURS DOWN

BLUES BRUISED

Eriksen scored within 11

seconds on Wednesday to

League debut for Manchester United, while

Chelsea crashed to a 3-0

defeat by Bournemouth at

ignored the carnage around them to march

serenely on, widening

their lead to an enormous

15 points with a 3-0 victory at home to West Brom

with just 13 games still to

The build-up to Wednesday's matches was

dominated by late moves

in the transfer window

but Spurs ensured the

UNITED 2-0,

London, Tottenham's

overshadow

Stamford Bridge.

Manchester

play.

Sanchez's

REFURBISHED MMRT ALL SET FOR ACTION

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 1

The opening round of the MMSC-FMSCI National Racing Championship begins at the refurbished MMRT circuit at Irungattukottai this weekend. The competitors will have the benefit of new and spacious garages following the development work carried out over the past nine months, besides the plush hospitality suites. The championship will feature saloon cars in four categories – the top-end Indian Touring Cars, Indian Junior Touring Cars, Super Stock and Esteem Cup. With all four categories in saloon cars to be run from a common grid, there would be no dearth of on-track action due to hectic jostling for

positions.
The ITC races this weekend will be without their two prominent drivers, defending champion Arjun Narendran and second-placed Deepak Paul Chinnappa. Their absence will open the doors for others, notably Bengaluru's Ashish Ramaswamy who finished third in the championship last year behind Arjun and Chinnappa, and will again spearhead Red Rooster Performance

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INDIA CRUISE

Durban, Feb. 1: Captain Virat Kohli (112) led from the front to help India canter to a six-wicket win in the first ODI against South Africa here on Thursday. The visitors finished the job in 45.3 overs. Ajinkya Rahane lent admirable support to Kohli with 79. Earlier, captain Faf du Plessis sparkled with an impressive 120 as he single-handedly took South Africa to 269 for 8.

India's leg-spin twins Kuldeep Yaday and Kuldeep Yuzvendra Chahal shared five wickets among them in an impressive bowling show but du Plessis ensured that the Proteas have a competitive total on board after opting to bat. Du Plessis scored his eighth ODI hundred after a half- empty Kingsmead Stadium bore witness to South Africa's top- order collapse. The hosts lost four wickets for 51 runs before du Plessis and Chris Morris (37) rescued them with a 74-run partnership for the sixth wicket.

The Protea skipper faced 112 balls from which he hit 11 fours and 2 sixes. For India, Yadav took 3/34 and Chahal returned 2/45 as the duo excelled in their first proper overseas outing, underlining the team man-agement's faith in leg-spin since July last year.

Earlier, South Africa won the toss and opted to bat.



India captain Virat Kohli celebrates his century against South Africa in the first ODI at Kingsmead in Durban on Thursday. India won by six wickets.

SCORECARD

South Africa: Q. de Kock Ibw b Chahal 34, H. Amla Ibw b Bumrah 16, F. du Plessis c Pandya b Kumar 120, A. Markram c Pandya b Chahal 9, J. Duminy b Kuldeep Yadav 12, D. Miller c Kohli b Kuldeep Yadav 7, C. Morris b Kuldeep Yadav 37, A. Phehlukwayo (not out) 27, K. Rabada run out Dhoni 1, M. Morkel (not out) O. Extras (lb3, nb1, w2) 6. Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)

FoW: 1-30, 2-83, 3-103, 4-122, 5-134, 6-208, 7-264, 8-268. Bowling: Kumar 10- 1-71-1, Bumrah 10-0-56-1, Pandya 7-0-41-0, Chahal 10-0-45-2, Kuldeep Yadav 10-0-34-3, Jadhav 3-0-19-0. India: R. Sharma c de Kock b Morkel 20, S. Dhawan run out

CITY St. Bede's champions

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Brief scores of the TNCA-City schools U-16 tournament: Final: Santhome H.S.S 146 in 47.4 overs (Manav Parakh 3/22) lost to St. Bede's A.I.H.S.S 150/5 in 42.1 overs (S. Rithik Easwaran 67*, H. Prashid Akash 42).

GHSS (Ashok Nagar) have it easy Brief scores of the Agarwal Vidyalaya interschool cricket tourna-ment: QF: GHSS Manali 133/9 in 20 overs (Ajay Prasanna 85) lost to Muslim HSS 136/5 in 17.5 Saqlain Mushtaq 34, Ashwin 28). Sindhi Model 70 in 15 overs (R. Aravindan 6/5) lost to GHSS Ashok Nagar 70 for no loss in 10 overs (Nithin Vijay 29*).

Velammal win title Brief scores of the Thiruvallur DCA-Apollo Tyres U-16 inter-school tournament: Final: DAV Mugappair 114 in 27.3 overs (V. Srivathsan 36, Saravanan 3/25, Manav Patel 4/28) lost to Velammal International Panchetti 118/6 in 28.2 overs (S.

Hindustan win basketball crown Results of Vaspo intercollege sports festival organised by MOP Vaishnav: All finals: Table tennis: St. Joseph's bt Maris Basketball: Hindustan bt St. Joseph's 47-28. Throwball: Ethiraj bt MS 15-6, 9-15, 15-12.

Santhosh Kumar 51).

State women's U-23 team trials

The TNCA will conduct trials to select players for

CFC treat fans in open training session

SRINIVASA N.V CHENNAI, FEB. 1

It is not often Chennaiyin FC fans get to see their team training. But on Thursday evening, the ISL team threw their training session open to reporters and their fans at the SDAT Nehru Park.

As the team went on with their warm-up routine, the 100-odd fans belted out songs that have rocked the Nehru Stadium during Chennaiyin's matches this

Even though Chennaiyin don't officially recognise the two notable fan clubs — Super Machans and B Stand Blues — the team do help them by giving a discount on tickets. In return, the fans travel with the club for their away games. They were present when Chennaiyin edged out Bengaluru FC 2-1 in an away match earlier this season and will travel to Kochi later this month for the match against Kerala

For the fans, the allegiance is natural. "We used to support European clubs because we did not have a

support a team which belongs to Chennai and moreover the players can now hear our chants that can spur them.

Captain Henrique Sereno who was the first to walk up to greet the fans wants to repay the faith they have shown in the team with a win in their next home match against Bengaluru FC on February 6 at the Nehru Stadium. "Our win over Bengaluru FC in Bengaluru was important because they are a strong team. All the players in Chennaiyin want to win every match," he said.

At 20, Anirudh Thapa is one of the babies of the team but he has already played nine matches so far with a goal to his name. Anirudh's puny frame doesn't prevent him from playing in a central-defensive role that puts a premium on physical presence. "I never really thought I would get to play so much. Most of the coaches say I have to improve physique and right now I'm working on it. Our objective is to qualify for the play-offs. The team

focus switched back to the pitch immediately, stunning Jose Mourinho's men with a performance full of attacking verve in a RESULTS

Chelsea Bournemouth (Wilson 51, Stanislas 64, Ake 67)

(Walcott 25, 39) Leicester (Vardy 71-pen)

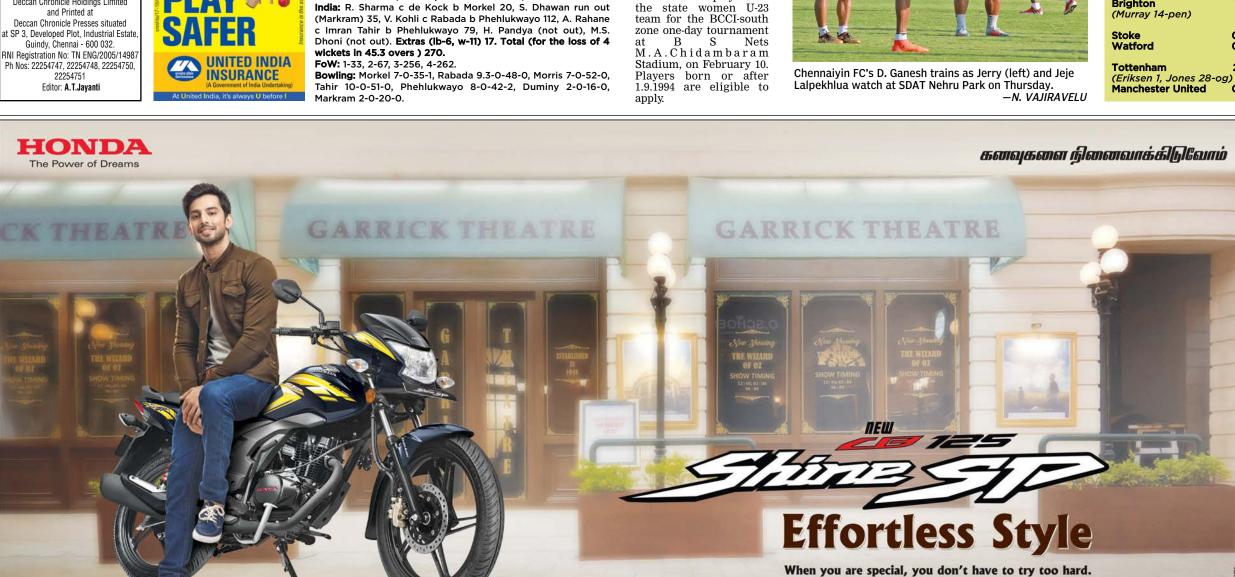
Manchester City (Fernandinho 19, De Bruyne 68, Aguero 89) West Brom

Newcastle

Southampton (Stephens 64) Brighton

Tottenham (Eriksen 1, Jones 28-og)





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